Issue No. 15 MARHABA SEPTEMBER '99

MARHABA

THE INFORMATION MAGAZINE OF QATAR

Issue No. 15 • September '99

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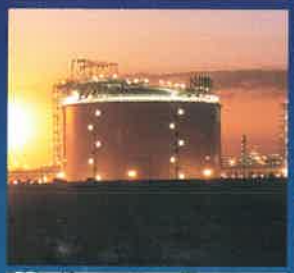

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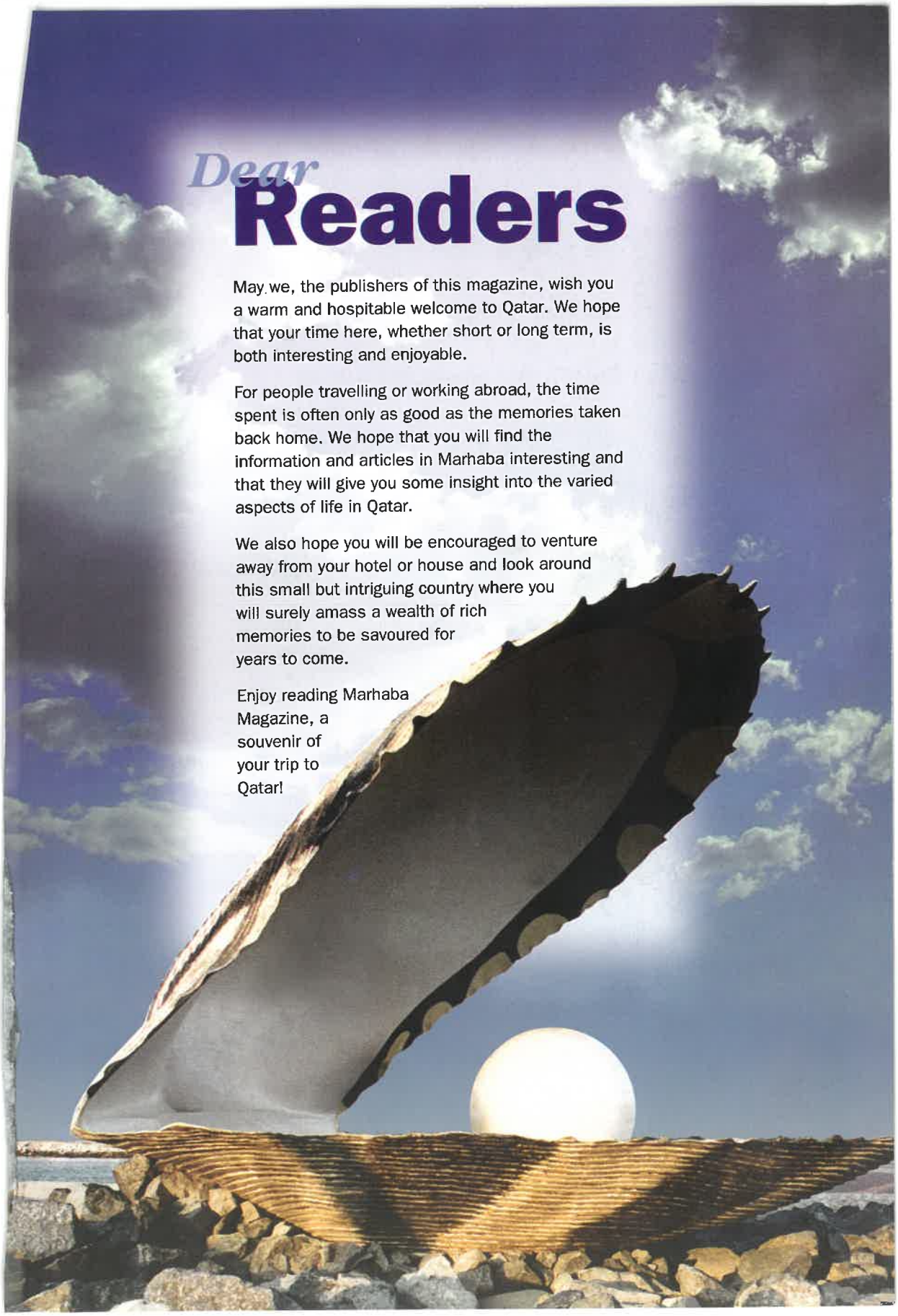

Dear Readers

May we, the publishers of this magazine, wish you a warm and hospitable welcome to Qatar. We hope that your time here, whether short or long term, is both interesting and enjoyable.

For people travelling or working abroad, the time spent is often only as good as the memories taken back home. We hope that you will find the information and articles in Marhaba interesting and that they will give you some insight into the varied aspects of life in Qatar.

We also hope you will be encouraged to venture away from your hotel or house and look around this small but intriguing country where you will surely amass a wealth of rich memories to be savoured for years to come.

Enjoy reading Marhaba Magazine, a souvenir of your trip to Qatar!

Marhaba

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Marhaba endeavours to quote accurate information, and regularly updates each of its sections. We do our best to check data prior to publication. However, the magazine accepts no liability in the case of unintentional errors, and recommends that readers make any personal or business decisions based on their own research and enquiries.

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HOW CAN MARHABA HELP YOU

Marhaba - The Information Magazine of Qatar - is published three times a year, with an average 12,000 copies of each issue circulated inside and outside Qatar.

Marhaba is well established and well received, and has a strong reputation both at home and abroad. As an advertising tool, it is hard to beat. Each publication is valid for between three and six months, (it is issued on March 1st, September 1st and December 1st each year) and all information is reviewed and updated for each issue. However, since Marhaba includes timeless features on the country and its traditions as well as business matters and topical issues, most readers retain Marhaba in their home or office for years. Our enquiries show that most individual copies of Marhaba are read by more than one person, so readership is far higher than circulation.

A copy of Marhaba is placed in each bedroom of all major hotels in the country, and supplied to guests free of charge. Most of the major national and international companies in Qatar use the magazine as part of their recruitment package, and on occasion have special customised copies printed to circulate to delegates at conferences in Qatar and overseas.

Marhaba is in great demand from foreign embassies in Qatar and Qatar's missions overseas, airlines, cultural centres, social clubs, sports clubs and schools. Personal copies are mailed to a large but select list of senior government officials and businessmen and copies are circulated to companies for distribution to their employees.

Additional copies of Marhaba are circulated to numerous housing compounds and to a number of commercial outlets. The magazine is circulated against signed delivery notes, which are available for the scrutiny of future advertisers , should they so require.

The magazine is published by Dana Public Relations, which combines the work of a creative design studio, a fully equipped full-colour Repro House and a full-service advertising agency. All material, through to full-colour separations, is prepared in-house and the cost of art work is included in Marhaba's advertising rates.

Enquiries are welcomed from those organisations which wish to advertise, to order 'personalised' copies (with a company-specific or event-specific welcome letter) or to be added to the circulation list.

INFORMATION

is a two-way thing!

We hope that you find Marhaba interesting, informative - and yes, even fun to read. Now, to make the magazine even better, maybe even bigger, we'd like to receive some information from you!

The magazine appears three times a year - in March, September and December, and we are always on the look-out for events to include in our "What's On" pages, new places to include in our "Where to Go" section, and new topics for our features. Why not contact us with information about the organizations you belong to, or interesting places you've discovered. What about our features? Are there particular subjects you'd like us to cover in future issues? We always try to have a mix of new and traditional, leisure and business - but what else would you like to see?

MAIL US YOUR IDEAS

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REACH OUT AND TELL THE REST OF THE COMMUNITY

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ADVERTISE WITH US TO REACH VISITORS AND RESIDENTS

BREAK THE HABITS OF A LIFETIME AND RESPOND TO US!

AND ABOVE ALL, HELP US KEEP YOU INFORMED

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IRAN
ARABIAN GULF
QATAR
SAUDI ARABIA
UAE
This map is not to scale
and is intended as a guide only

The State of Qatar

Until a decade or so ago, people living outside the Middle East would have been hard-pressed to find Qatar on a map. They knew little, if anything, about the country which appears in the atlas like a thumb projecting from the western coast of the Arabian Gulf. Now, it has come to prominence both as one of the major energy-providers in the world, and as host to numerous world-class sporting events.

A Peninsula, surrounded by sea on three sides, Qatar also has a number of offshore reefs and islands, bringing the total land area to approximately 11,437 square kilometres, and the stretch of shoreline to over 700 kilometres.

GEOGRAPHY

To put Qatar in the context of world geography, with a location of between 24 degrees 27 minutes and 26 degrees 10 minutes north, it is on a similar latitude to Taiwan and Southern Florida, and at 50 degrees 45 minutes to 51 degrees 40 minutes east, it is on roughly the same longitude as the Caspian Sea, the tip of the Horn of Africa, and some of the smaller Seychelles Islands.

The whole peninsula lay under the sea until about 60 million years ago, and consequently many marine fossils are to be found, including shark's teeth. Most of the peninsula is flat, a line of hills in the west, known as Jebel Dukhan, have some spectacularly shaped limestone outcrops. In the south east of the country, the Inland Sea (Khor Al Udaid) is surrounded by an impressive field of barchan dunes, reaching in places to a height of nearly 60 metres. The highest point on the peninsula is only 120 metres above sea level, and the lowest points - known as 'sabkha' or salt flats - actually lie below sea level. It is there that just by digging a little with your bare hands, you can find the intricate gypsum formations known as 'desert roses'. And as a reminder of the times when the climate, flora and fauna were entirely different, you can find a dry river valley, with a site that once marked a waterfall.

Once you get outside the man-made parks and gardens of the city, you find yourself surrounded by characteristic limestone desert, with a central stony plain. Particularly in the north of the country, there are a number of depressions (called rowdat) in which wind-blown sweet soil collects and where an abundance of desert plants sprout following the winter rains. The onshore oil fields are in the west of the peninsula, around Dukhan, whilst the North Field gas dome - the largest field of unassociated gas in the world - lies off the north east coast, from the headland of Ras Laffan.

CLIMATE

The country has what is described as a moderate desert climate. The winters are generally mild, with an average of 70mm of rain

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per year, which usually falls between October and March. Occasional heavy showers can be interspersed with light rain, and the first rains of the year - those which literally 'spot' the sand of the desert, are called 'wasmi' from the Arabic 'wasm' or mark. Winter nights are cool, but temperatures don't usually drop below about 7 degrees Celsius. (However, strangely enough it often feels much colder than it would at similar temperatures in Europe, and out in the desert the cold can feel biting at night if you're camping.) Summer temperatures, by contrast, can soar to 50 degrees centigrade, with accompanying humidity often in excess of 95%.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

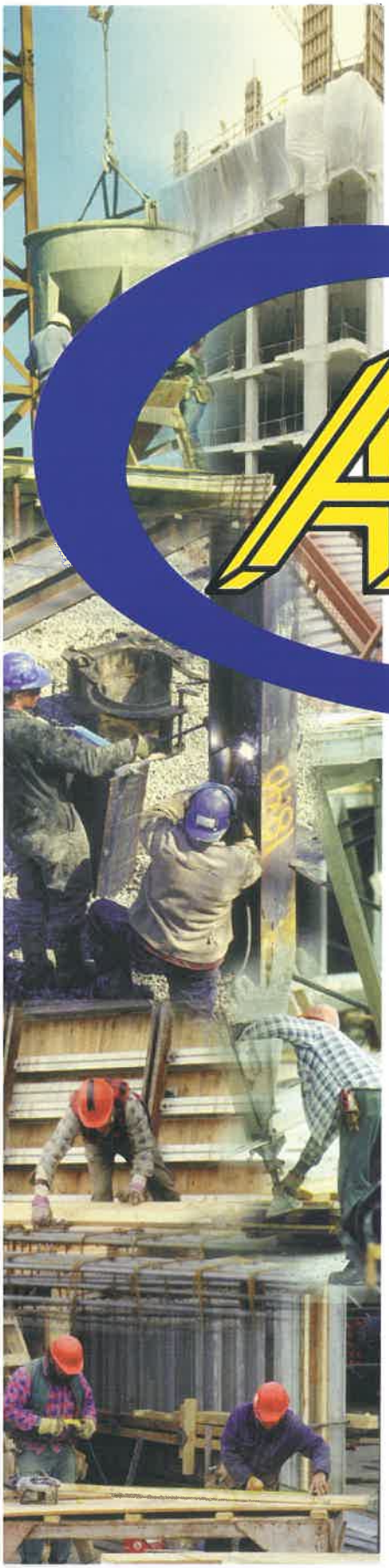
The country's main industrial centres are: Mesaieed (formerly called Umm Said) about 45km south of Doha, where Qatar Steel Company, Qatar Fertiliser Company and a number of other ventures for the petrochemicals industry are located; the Salwa Industrial Area on the outskirts of Doha, where there are a number of small-scale industries including food processing and garment manufacture, furniture production, and detergent manufacture, as well as auto-repair workshops and major servicing centres for a number of car dealers; and Ras Laffan in the north east. Ras Laffan Industrial City was built to provide the infrastructure for the development of Qatar's North Gas Field, and whilst production and export of condensates and liquefied natural gas (LNG) began in 1996, the City wasn't officially inaugurated until February 1997. The port, with its long main and lee breakwaters, provides one of the largest LNG exporting terminals in the world.

THE POPULATION AND ITS DISTRIBUTION

According to a full census carried out in the country in 1997, the total population of Qatar is around 600,000, with almost 80% of those being expatriates from other Arab countries, Asia and Europe, North and South America, Africa and Australia etc. The local population has strong historical and family ties with the rest of the Arab states in the Gulf, and a number of nationals from other gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) states are living and working in the country. Around 60% of Qatar's population live in the capital, Doha, which is the seat of government and the location of the main commercial and financial institutions.

Other main residential areas are: Al Khor, a thriving town just under 60km north of Doha, which used to be a fishing village. It still has a picturesque harbour, with fishing dhows. It also has fine beaches, mosques and an old market place as well as a beautiful Corniche running round the bay, and a regional museum. The nearby area of Al Dhakhira is being developed as a residential area serving Ras Laffan. Al Wakra, an old fishing village about 15km south of Doha is growing rapidly, and expanding as a

Al Corniche Street - the beautiful seafort promenade of the capital.



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residential area serving the capital. It has a newly developed fishing jetty and harbour, as well as sandy beaches with permanent palm-thatched shades, as well as the ruins of a number of old houses. Mesaieed, further to the south, has a residential area separate from the industrial area, and there are also extensive sandy beaches as well as a new hotel right on the shoreline, with landscaped gardens. Extensive coral reefs off the coast are home to a myriad of marine life, and make it an attractive spot for scuba diving. Most of the residents of the town have family members working in the industrial area. Dukhan, on the west coast and approximately 84km from Doha, is the centre of onshore oil-production, and again most of the residents work in the industry. Amongst Qatar's most important islands are the Hawar islands, which lie close to the coast, between Dukhan and Zubarah. Al Zubarah, in the northwest of Qatar, is one of the most significant archaeological sites in the country, and excavation work is continuing. It has been the site of successive settlements, and was an important town for both pearl fishing and trading. The old fort has been transformed into a regional museum. Medinat Shamal is a newly developed town at the northern tip of the peninsula, and functions as an administrative centre for a small number of villages in the area.

RELIGION

Islam is the official religion of the country, and the Shari'a (Islamic Law) is the principal source of legislation in the country. The vast majority of the population are Sunni Muslims.

HISTORY

Excavations suggest that settlements on the peninsula date back beyond the 4th century BC, with some estimates putting them back roughly as far as 8000BC. For many years, the country was famous for its weaving and embroidery, and also for its pearling industry - virtually destroyed by the development of the Japanese cultured pearl industry. The discovery of oil, in 1939, thus came at an opportune time, and many of those previously employed in fishing and pearling found new jobs in the fledgling oil industry. Those Qataris whose ancestors were not connected to the sea come from nomadic Bedouin families who moved camp according to the seasons, tending sheep and camels. Increasingly, and with government assistance, the majority have settled and amended their lifestyles, taking up work opportunities in the booming economy.

Al Bida Park, near the Corniche.

مبنـــى جامعـــة قطـــر

متحف اقليمي. تعتـبر مدينة الشمال من المدن الحـــديثـــة وهي تـقع في الركن الشـمالي من شـبه الجـزيرة وتعمل كمركز إداري لعدد من القرى الصغيرة في المنطقة.

الـديـــن

الإســـلام هو الدين الرســـمي لـلدولة والشـريعـة الإسلامـيـة هي المصـدر الرئيسي للتـشريع والغالبـية العظمى من السكان مسلمون على مذهب السنه.

التـــاريـــخ

تدل الحـفـريات على ان شـبه الجـزيرة كـان مـأهولاً بالسكان منذ مـاقـبل القـرن الرابع قـبل الميـلاد إلا ان بعض التقـديرات تعيـد ذلك التاريخ إلى القـرن الثامن قبل الميلاد على وجه التقريب.

ظلت البـلاد لسنوات عديدة مـعـروفة بمهنة النسـيج والتطريز وكذلك صـيد اللؤلؤ وهي المهنة التي اندثرت بسبب تطور زراعة اللؤلؤ الصناعي الـيـابـاني ، لذا فقد جـاء اكـتـشـاف البـتـرول في عـام ١٩٣٩ في الوقت المناسب حيث وجـد الكثيرون الذين كـانوا يعلمون في صـيـد اللؤلؤ والأسـماك وظائف مناسـبة في صناعـة البـتـرول الولـيـدة آنذالك. القطريون الذيـن لم يرتبط أسلافهم بالبحر كـانوا من البدو الذين كانوا يترحلون بحـسب المـواسم ويرعـون الغنم والابـل، ومع الزمن ودعم الحكومة بدأ مـعظم هؤلاء يستقرون ويغـيرون نمط حياتهم ويرتبطون بالوظائف الدائمة التي اتاحتها الطفرة الإقتصادية الجديدة

وكورنيش جمـيل يمر على امتداد الشـاطىء بالإضافة إلى مـتحف إقليـمي وقـد تم تطوير منطقـة الذخيـرة المجاوره لتكون منطقة سكنية لخدمة مدينة راس لفان الصناعية. الوكره ، وهي ميناء صيد قديم تقع على بعد ١٥ كلم جنوب الدوحة ، تنمو بسرعة وتتوسع كمنطقة سكنية مرتـبطة بالعاصمة ، وقد اقـيمت فيهـا مؤخراً ميناء صـيد وفرضـه جديدين بالإضافـة إلى سواحل رمليه عليها مظلات ثابتـه من سعف النخيل وبها ايضاً عدد من آثار البيوت القـديمة. مسيعيد التي تبـعد اكثر إلى الجنوب توجـد بهـا منطقـة سكنيـة منفـصلة عن المنطقة الصناعـينة وسواحل رمليه واسعـة بالإضافة إلى منتجع جديد يقوم مباشرة على الشاطىء تحيط به الحدائق ، وتمثل الشعب المرجانيـة الغنية الواقعة تحت مـياه الشـاطىء مـوطناً لأنواع مخـتلفـة من الأحيـاء البحـرية وموقـعاً مناسـباً لممـارسة الغوص ومـعظم سكان المدينـة لديهم أفـراد من اسـرهم يـعـملون في المنطقـة الصناعيـة. تقع دخـان على الساحل الغـربي وتبـعـد عن الـدوحـة بحـوالي ٨٤ كيلومتر وهي مـركز انتاج البترول من الحقـول البرية ونجـد ايضاً ان مـعظم سـكانهـا يعـمـلون في هذا المجال. من بين اهم الجـزر القطرية جـز حـــوار التي تقع بالـقـرب من الشـــاطىء بـين دخـــان والزبارة ، وتقع الزبارة شمال غرب قطر وهي احدى اكبر المواقع الأثرية في البلاد ومازالت اعمـال الحفر جارية فـيها لإكتـشاف المزيد من الآثـار ، كانت المدنية موقعاً سكنياً متجدداً ومدينة هامة بالنسبة لـصيد وتجارة اللؤلؤ وقـد تم تحـويل الميـناء القـديم إلى

البـدع ، بجـانب الكـورنيش

المنـــاخ

يسود البلاد مـايمكن ان يوصف بانه مناخ صحراوي لطيف يتميز بشتاء دافيء في معظم الأوقات ، والشتاء هو موسم الأمطار التي يبلغ معـدلها ٧٧ ملم في العام وتسقـط في العادة بين اكـتوبر ومارس. وفـي العادة تتخلل مـوجات الأمطار الغزيرة زخـات خفيـفة ، اول امطار الموسم التي تـترك آثراً عـلى الأرض بشكل برك متفـرقة تسمى "بالوسمى" نسـبة إلى كلمة "وسم" أي العلامة في اللغة العربية ، ليالي الشتاء معتدلة لكن درجات الحـرارة لاتهبط إلى مادون ٧ درجات مـئوية (الغريب ان الجو يبدو اكـثر برودة مما يكون عليه في اوروبا في نفس درجـات الحرارة وسـوف تشعـر ان الجو قارس البرودة في الليل لو انـك تقيم في معسكر في الصـحراء) وبالمقارنـة قد ترتفع درجـات الحرارة في الصيف لتبلغ ٥٠ درجة مـئوية مصحوبة برطوبة عالية قد تزيد عن ٩٥٪.

التطـور الصنـاعي

تشـمل المراكز الصنـاعيـة الرئيسـيـة في البلاد مـدينة مسيعيد (وكانت تسـمى سابقاً ام سعيد) وهي تقع على بعد حوالي ٤٥ كيلومـتر إلى الجنوب من الدوحة ويوجد بها شـركة قطر لصناعة الحديد والصلب وشـركة قطر لصناعـة الأسـمـدة وعـدد مـن الصناعـات الخـاصـة بالبتروكـيماويات ، ومنطقة الدوحة الصـناعية تقع على طريق سلوى في ضواحـي الدوحة ويوجد بهـا عدد من الصناعات الخفـيفة والمتوسطة مثل الصناعـات الغذائية وصناعة الملابس والأثاث والمنظفات بالإضافة إلى ورش إصلاح السـيارات ومراكـز الصيـانة والخدمة التـابعة لوكالات السيارات ، انشئت منـطقة راس لفان الصناعية على الساحل الشمـالي الشرقي لتوفير البنيات التـحتية لمشروع تطوير حـقل غاز الشمـال ، بالرغم من ان انتاج وتصدير المكثفات والغاز الطبـيعي المسال كان قد بدأ في عام ١٩٩٦م إلا ان المدينة لم تفتتح رسمياً إلا في فبراير ١٩٩٧م ، يعـتـبـر ميناء هذه المدينة بمرافـئـه الطويلة المحميـة من الأمواج والرياح أحد اكبـر موانيء تصدير الغاز الطبيعي المسال في العالم.

السكـــان وتـــوزيعهم

بلغ تعـداد السكان في دولـة قطر وفـقاً لتـعـداد عـام ١٩٩٧م حوالي ٦٠٠,٠٠٠ نسمـة ، حوالي ٨٠٪ منهم وافـدون من الدول العربيـة الأخـرى وآسيـا واوروبا وامـريكا الجنوبيـة وامـريكا الشـمـاليـة وافـريقـيـا واستراليا .. الخ. للمواطنين عـلاقات اسرية وتاريخية قوية مع مواطني دول مجلس التعاون الخليجي وهناك عدد من مواطني تلك الدول يقيمون ويعملون في دولة قطر. حوالي ٦٠٪ مـن مجمـوع السكان يعيـشون في مدينة الدوحـة العاصمـة وهي مقر الحكم وتوجـد بها المؤسسات التجارية والمالية.

تشمل المدن والتجمعات السكانية الأخرى مدينة الخور وهي مدينـة مزدهرة تبـعد حوالـي ٦٠ كيلو مـتر إلى الشـمـال من الدوحـة وقـد كـانت في السـابق قـرية لصيـادي الأسماك واللؤلؤ ومـازالت تحتفـظ بمبانيها التراثي وسـفن الصيد التـقليدية الراسـية فيـه ، وبها شـواطيء رمليـه جـمـيله ومـساجـد وسـوق قـديم

شـــارع الكـــورنيش

دولة قطر

كان الناس قبل حوالي عشرة أعوام يجدون صعوبة في تحديد موقع قطر على الخارطة وكانوا لايعرفون شيئاً على الإطلاق أو لايعرفون إلا القليل عن هذا البلد الذي تبرز خارطته مثل الابهام من السواحل الغربية للخليج العربي أما الآن فقد برز اسمه أيضاً كأحد اكبر الدول المنتجه للطاقة وكموقع للعديد من البطولات الرياضية الدولية المشهودة.

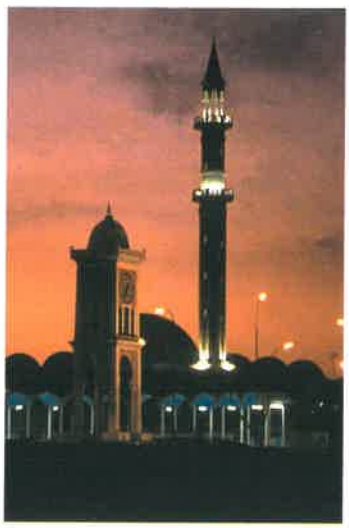
قطر عبارة عن شبه جزيرة تحيط بها مياه الخليج من ثلاث جهات وتقع في حدود شواطئها التي تمتد إلى ٧٠٠ كيلومتر العديد من الشعب المرجانيه والجزر وتبلغ المساحة الكلية لشبه الجزيرة بما في ذلك الجزر ١١٤٣٧ كيلومتراً مربعاً.

الموقع الجغرافي

تقع قطر بين خط عرض ٢٧َ-٢٤ْ و ١٠َ-٣٦ْ شمالاً على نفس خطي العرض مع تايوان وجنوب فلوريدا وبين خطي طول ٤٥َ-٥٠ْ و ٤٠َ-٥١ْ شرقاً على نفس خطي الطول تقريباً مع بحر قزوين وطرف رأس الرجاء الصالح وبعض صغار جزر سيشيل.

كانت شبه الجزيرة مغموره بالمياه قبل حوالي ٦٠ مليون سنه لذلك تشتمل تربتها على الكثير من بقايا الأحياء البحرية المتحجرة مثل اسنان اسماك القرش ، معظم سطح شبه الجزيرة مستو فيما عدا سلسلة من الجبال على الساحل الغربي تتميّز بتشكيلات جيرية فريدة وفي جنوب شرق البلاد يوجد خور العديد وهو محاط بتكوينات فريدة من الكثبان الرملية يصل ارتفاعها في بعض الأماكن إلى ٦٠ متراً. أعلى نقطة في شبه الجزيرة يبلغ ارتفاعها ١٢٠ متراً فوق مستوى سطح البحر والمناطق التي يقل مستواها عن مستوى سطح البحر تعرف باسم "السباخ" او سهول الملح وهنا يمكنك ان تحفر بيدك المجرده لتجد اشكالاً من التكلسات الجيرية تعرف باسم "زهور الصحراء".

وعند التنقيب في العصور الموغله في القدم ، عندما كان المناخ والغطاء النباتي والحيواني مختلفاً تجد آثاراً لوادي نهر جاف في موقع تظهر فيه آثار شلال قديم وعندما تخرج من نطاق الحدائق والخضره التي ساهم في صنعها الانسان تجد نفسك محاطاً بصحراء تغلب عليها التربة الجيرية تحيط بسهل صخري في الوسط ويوجد في الشمال بصفة خاصة منخفضات تسمى الرياض تتجمع فيها التربة الخصبة بكميات وافرة بفعل هبوب الرياح وتكثر فيها النباتات الحراوية بعد هطول الأمطار.



تقع حقول البترول البحرية في غرب شبه الجزيرة حول منطقة دخان بينما يقع حقل غاز الشمال وهو اكبر تجمع منفرد للغاز الطبيعي غير المصاحب في العالم تحت مياه الساحل الشمالي الشرقي الذي تطل عليه راس لفان.

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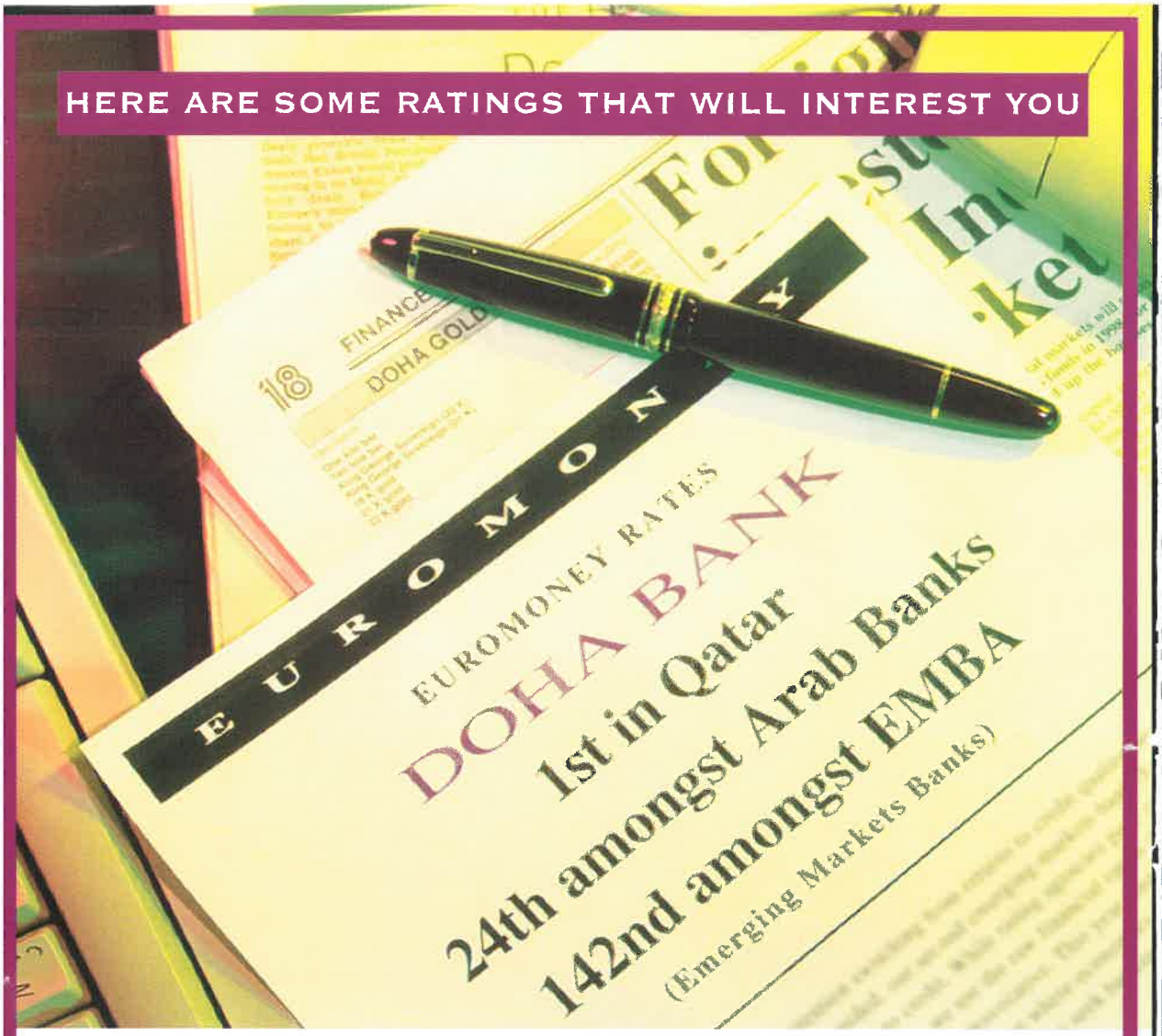

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The Emir and government of Qatar

'Dawlat Qatar', The State of Qatar, is a sovereign and independent state which has been ruled by the Al Thani family since the 19th Century. Qatar gained independence on September 3rd 1971, and the present Emir, His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, who was born in 1950, is the eighth member of the family to have ruled the country. He assumed power on June 27th 1995, after eighteen years as Heir Apparent and Defence Minister, a period during which he became increasingly involved in the running of state affairs.

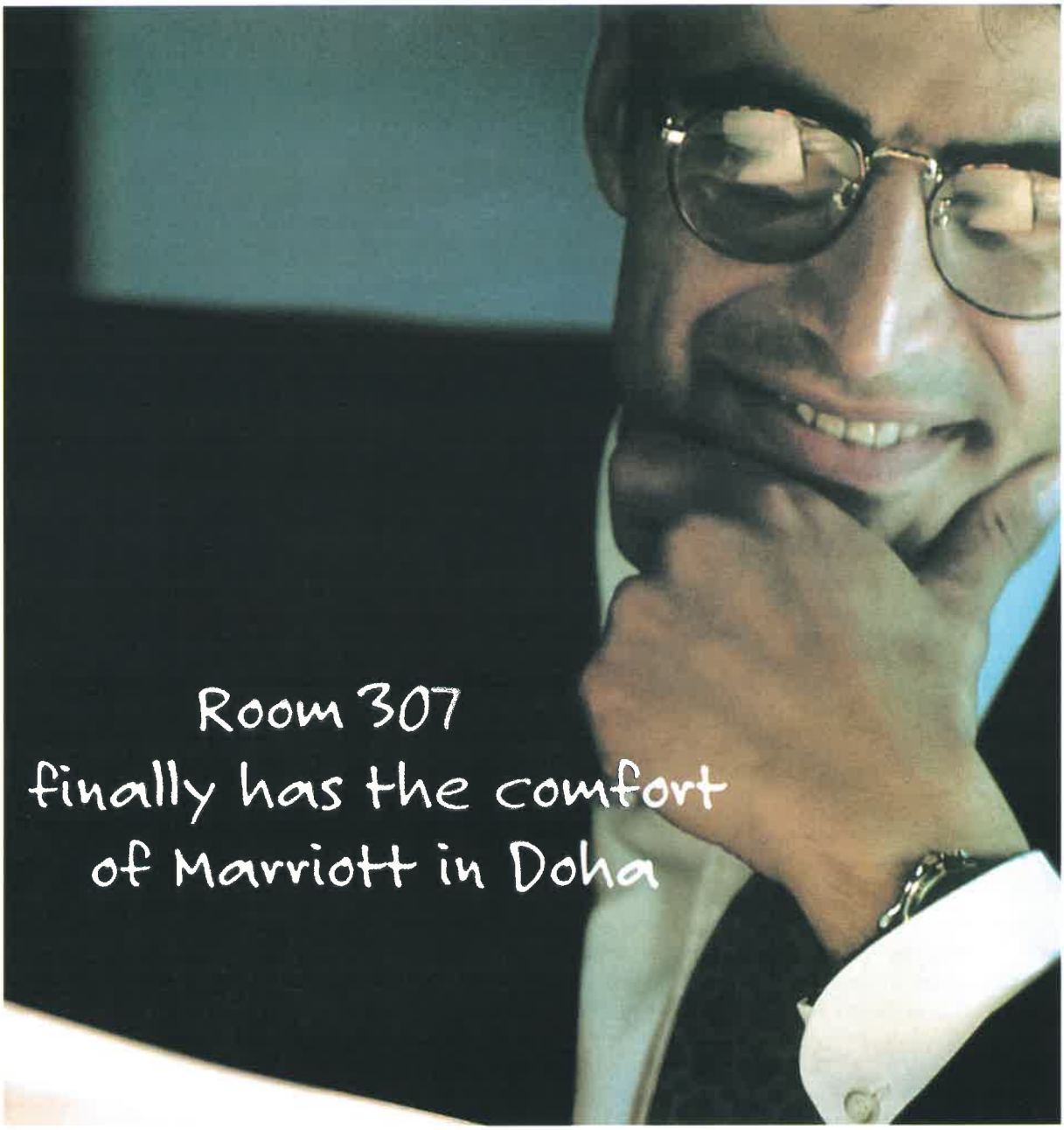
In line with the revised provisional constitution which grants hereditary rule to the Al Thani family, the Emir appointed his third son, His Highness Sheikh Jassem Bin Hamad Al Thani, as Heir Apparent on October 22nd 1996. At the same time, a further amendment to the constitution enabled the posts of Emir and Prime Minister to be separated, and Sheikh Hamad appointed his brother, His Highness Sheikh Abdullah Bin Khalifa Al Thani as Premier on October 28th 1996.

His Highness
Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani
Emir of the State of Qatar

His Highness
Sheikh Jassem Bin Hamad Al Thani
Heir Apparent

His Highness
Sheikh Abdullah Bin Khalifa Al Thani
Prime Minister & Minister of the Interior

His Highness
Sheikh Mohammed Bin Khalifa Al Thani
Deputy Prime Minister



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Another of the Emir's brothers, Sheikh Mohammed Bin Khalifa Al Thani, was later appointed Deputy Premier.

The Council of Ministers (Cabinet), appointed by Emiri Decree, is the supreme executive authority in the country, with all laws and statutes ratified by the Emir. The state also has an Advisory Council (Majlis Al Shura), with some thirty members, which currently debates political, administrative and economic matters referred to it by the cabinet. The council was first formed in 1972, with members chosen and appointed for their sound judgement, and their competence to represent all sectors of society and all regions of the country. The Advisory Council has five permanent committees: Legal & Legislative Affairs; Financial & Economic Affairs; Public Services and Utilities; Domestic & Foreign Affairs; and Cultural Affairs & Information

In line with proposals first put forward by the Emir in 1995, a 32-member high level committee was formed in July 1999 to draft a new, permanent, constitution for the country, one of the main provisions of which would be to establish an elected parliament. The committee is to hold its second meeting in October, and has up to three years to complete its work. As an initial step towards popular participation in government, the country's first democratic elections were held in March 1999 for a twenty nine member Central Municipal Council to act as an advisory body for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Agriculture; in a pioneering move, women were allowed both to vote and to run as candidates.

The present government consists of portfolios for: Interior; Foreign Affairs; Finance Economy and Trade; Awqaf (Endowments) and Islamic Affairs; Municipal Affairs and Agriculture; Civil Service Affairs and Housing; Communications and Transport; Education and Higher Education; Energy and Industry, Electricity and Water; Public Health; and Justice. In addition, there are several Ministers of State without portfolio.

The cabinet ministers, according to the current constitution, share collective responsibility under the Emir to implement the policy of the state, and it is the cabinet's responsibility to ensure that the country enjoys the maximum economic, social, cultural and administrative development. To that end, they propose draft laws and statutes, endorse resolutions and regulations prepared by the individual ministries within their mandates; supervise the implementation of laws, statutes, resolutions, regulations and court judgements; monitor state finances; prepare the state draft budget; supervise the work of the civil service and ministries; create the systems necessary for the upholding of state security and public order; and supervise the protection of state interests abroad, including international relations and foreign policy, in accordance with the law.

At the end of June 1999, the Emir formed a Higher Ministerial Council, chaired by the Foreign Minister and with the membership of the Minister of Energy, Industry, Electricity and Water, the Minister of Finance, Economy and Trade, and the Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, mandated to study the planning of future economic and industrial development in the country in the light of global trends.

Other important state bodies include the Supreme Council for Planning, which was first established in 1989. It recommends state economic and social policies and development plans, sponsors studies enhancing the effectiveness of planning and prepares reports and recommendations on enhancing the efficiency of state administration and public services. It is also mandated to study social and economic co-operation with the five other members of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC), Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Oman.

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Minister of Defence

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Prime Minister & Minister of the Interior

H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Khalifa Al Thani
Deputy Prime Minister

H.E. Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassim Bin Jabor Al Thani
Minister of Foreign Affairs

H.E. Sheikh Falah Bin Jassim Bin Jabor Al Thani
Minister of Civil Service Affairs & Housing

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Minister of Communications & Transport

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Dr. Hajar Bin Ahmed Hajar
Minister of Public Health

H.E. Hassan Bin Abdullah Al-Ghanim
Minister of Justice

H.E. Ali Bin Mohammed Al Khater
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Agriculture

Qatar's First Municipal Elections

Qatar's first civic polls - the elections for a Central Municipal Council (CMC) - were held on March 8th 1999, an historic event which marked the country's first step on the road to democracy. Since this was the first exercise of its kind ever conducted in the country, there were many new procedures to be established; there were extensive information and training campaigns for voters, candidates - and for those running the polling stations; campaigns were conducted in the press, on radio and TV - and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Agriculture (under whose aegis the CMC will function) waived the normal fees for roadside advertising - allowing candidates to put up posters free of charge in the towns and villages.

From now on, the polls are to be held every four years, and whilst the CMC initially has an advisory role, it may assume legislative powers at a later date.

Women were encouraged both to stand as candidates and to vote in the elections, the first opportunity for popular participation in the decision-making process of the country.

Tentative plans for the elections were first announced by His Highness the Emir, Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, in an address to the Advisory Council soon after he asumed power in 1995, a Decree was then issued on July 20th 1998 regarding the council and the polls.

Qatar has now been divided into 29 constituencies, based on considerations of population density, economic importance etc., and each constituency is represented by one councillor on the CMC. Voter registration began in October 1998, with Qatari nationals over the age of 18 - both men and women - eligible to vote as long as:

* they are Qatari nationals by birth, or if naturalised have held Qatari nationality for at least 15 years
* they are not members of the police or armed forces
* that they have not been indicted on criminal charges, or that their periods of rehabilitation have been completed.

When the registration period was complete, the Higher Election Committee checked the eligibility of each person, and after an appeals period issued an electoral roll and voter registration cards. The final list included 29,824 names.

Candidates, both men and women, were required to be:

* over the age of 25
* "literate, capable, honest and not indicted in any crime"

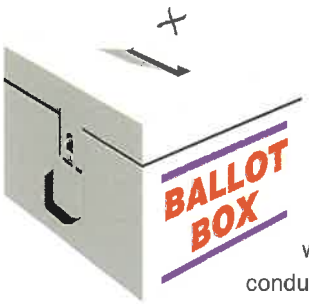
and in the case of a candidate who has acquired citizenship, the father must be of Qatari origin.

Approved candidates began their campaigns in January, with certain guidelines issued by the

elections committee, and female candidates received preparatory courses in campaign techniques to prepare them for their new venture. Placards and banners were in evidence right across town, with at least one enterprising candidate fixing his poster on a large advertising balloon. Two hundred and forty six candidates registered for the elections, whilst a final total of two hundred and twenty seven - including six women - actually contested the 29 seats.

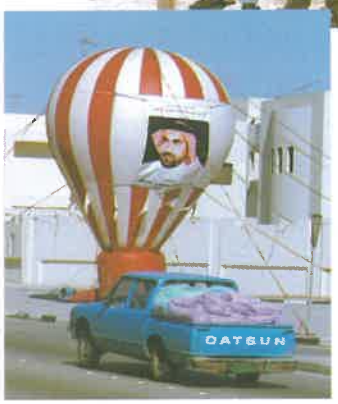
Schools were closed on polling day, since many were used as polling stations. Government offices and departments were also closed on the day, to allow employees to cast their votes. There was a 78% voter turnout, and separate facilities were provided at polling stations for men and women. Polling hours were from 8am to 5pm, and results were in for each of the constituencies the same evening.

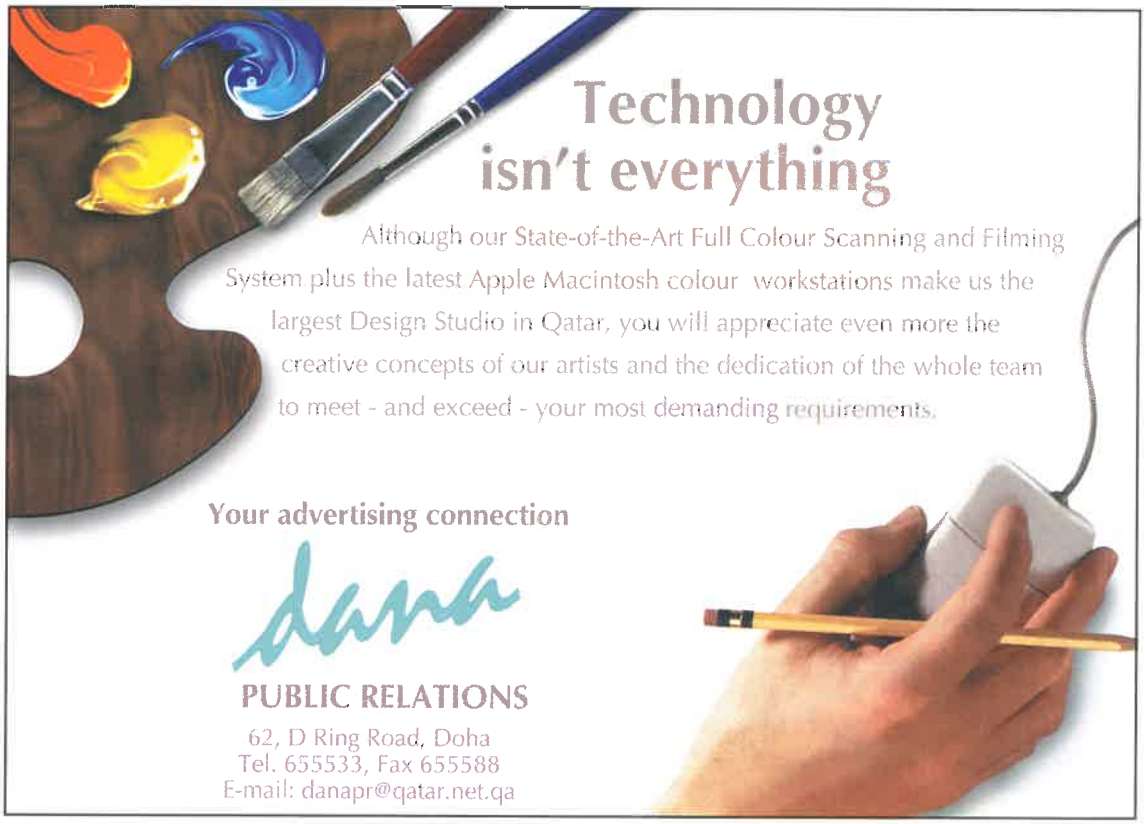
Special facilities were made available at the polling stations for any voters who were, for any reason, unable to read the ballot papers with a judge available to help them cast their ballot.



Numerous overseas parliamentary delegations visited Qatar both before and during the elections, conveying their congratulations to the Emir, government and people on both the decision to embark on the road to democracy and the efficient way in which the campaigns and polls were conducted.

Public meetings of the CMC are to be held on a monthly basis, and the councillors are not obliged to meet in Doha, but can select alternative venues should they so wish. The new councillors represent many different walks of life, but the youngest is 27 year old Mohammed Al Hajri, an executive with the newly privatised Qatar Telecom. He has lived in his constituency for 20 years and, like his fellow council members, put a lot of time and effort into studying the needs of his constituents and the priorities in the constituency. All twenty nine council members are approaching their new responsibilities with enthusiasm, determined to do their best to present the views of residents in their locality.





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Angel's Tears or Dew Drops Devoured?

Who would have thought that what started life as an irritant could end up as smooth, lustrous and beautiful as a pearl? That's probably why, in ancient times, no one suspected that pearls were created from the same secretions that line the oyster's shell. Fishermen assumed that either the pearls were angels' tears, fallen to earth and collected by the oysters on the sea-bed, or that the oysters floated to the surface of the sea early in the morning to drink the dewdrops, some of which became mystically transformed into pearls. Slightly less exotic were the references to pearls on early Sumerian tablets - they called them 'fish eyes'!

The stories were beautiful, but the actuality is no less wonderful. For decades, the economy and livelihood of the Arabian Gulf nations such as Qatar depended on the harvesting of natural pearls. Found in pinks, blues, greens, greys, yellows, bronzes, creams and even 'silvers', the best pearls come from the salt water oyster. The bivalve mollusc - outwardly so drab in appearance with its ragged-looking brownish shell - secretes a watery solution called 'nacre' to create and smoothly line the interior. When a small grain of sand or any other irritant gets trapped inside the shell, the oyster will cover it with nacre to stop the irritation. It takes years for the layers of nacre to build up and form a gem of any significant size, but the result is the pearl, so treasured through the centuries for jewellery and adornment.

The warm waters of the Arabian Gulf sheltered numerous oyster beds, and pearl fishing was the mainstay of the economy of the countries lining its shores. Pearling was not just a job, it was a profession and a way of life, and whole villages depended on the success of a pearling 'season'.

Qatar's pearling trade suffered tremendously when the Japanese started to 'speed up' the creative process by inserting a bead in the oyster, then harvesting it when the bead had been overlaid by a thin layer of nacre. What they produced became known as 'cultured' pearls. But nothing has the depth of colour, lustre or sheer beauty of the natural pearl, or lasts so long. Whereas after several decades, the cultured pearl can appear to have dulled, centuries old natural pearls look as bright as those which have just been taken from the oyster. Pearls have been used for jewellery and to adorn the clothes of women for hundreds - if not thousands - of years, but their collection cost the lives of sailors and divers, and families were left for months on end without a provider as the men of the household went to sea during each extended pearling season.

The boats and crews would often be away for periods of up to six months. And whilst that was hard on the families, life at sea was no joke either. It was impossible to carry much in the way of stores, so the crew ate only dates and coffee for breakfast and at mid-day, with a slightly more substantial meal of rice and fish in the evening. Health problems were varied and numerous, the seas were uncompromising, and poisonous dragon fish or sharks threatened the safety of divers.

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Dr. Odd Overoyen is a graduate of the University of Oslo, Norway. He is a Board Certified Orthodontist practicing his speciality as well as General Dentistry.

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dana

The divers (called 'ghais' or ghawwas') used very little equipment: nose-clips ('fetam') made from turtle shell; rope baskets ('dayyeen') in which to collect the oysters; curved-blade knives to open the oyster shells; finger-tip covers, made of leather ('khabat') to prevent cuts; weights tied to their waists to help them sink to the sea bed; and two ropes to the surface - one to hoist the full baskets of oysters, the other their safety line to the dhow. A tug at the rope, and they would be pulled back up as their breath gave out. Their partner at the other end of the rope - on whom their life depended - was called 'saib'.

These divers had incredible stamina - remember, they had no breathing apparatus - yet they would dive for up to two minutes at a time to depths of up to twelve metres. It took a heavy toll on their health; constantly starving the brain of oxygen whilst they dived - up to eight dives in just a quarter of an hour - led to a slow degeneration of its tissues.

And of course, hundreds of oysters could be harvested without ever finding a pearl! Nevertheless, each one had to be opened and checked. The oysters were left on the deck overnight, even for a couple of days, which made the shells easier to prise open in the morning. The pearls were all given to the captain ('nokhda'), who was an expert in locating the 'hayr' (pl. 'hayrat') or oyster beds, and pearl merchants ('tawwash') would visit the numerous dhows at sea to purchase all those which had been harvested. Life on the pearling dhows was that of a specialised community, where there was even one man (called the 'nahham') employed to lead the singing that accompanied the different aspects of the work on board. Each man on board (the 'mejaddimi' or second-in-command, the 'musally' or prayer leader, the ghais, saib, nahham, and the 'tabbabah' or apprentices) was later allocated a share of the total proceeds from selling the pearls. There was a very strict hierarchy for payment, and since the divers and other members of the crew had often asked the captain for an advance on their pay in order to buy provisions for their families before they left home, they frequently returned to shore with no earnings to show for their hard work!

The value of a pearl depends on several factors: size; colour; lustre; and flawlessness (otherwise known as clarity). The most important of those is lustre. There should be depth of colour to the pearl, a sheen or gloss which makes it shine brightly, seemingly glowing from within and changing with the light. An experienced pearl merchant will then look for imperfections using a magnifying glass, but also rolling the pearl gently beneath his fingertips to find any irregularities. If the lustre, colour and clarity of the pearl are good, then its value will increase if it is also a good shape - the perfect pearl is spherical - and large. But a large pearl with little lustre and some imperfections will be worth much less than one which is smaller but perfect. Experienced pearl dealers learnt how to remove the surface layer of nacre from some of the imperfect pearls to reveal a smaller but perfect gem inside. Only the expert will know when the ugly 'majhoolah' (unknown) pearl hides

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something special and few have the skill to reveal that inner pearl. It is a painstaking operation requiring immense patience, a great deal of time (often weeks), steady hands, perfect eyesight and a very sharp blade. Apart from that, it's a little like taking off the outer layers of an onion!

Pearls were sorted according to size using a set of brass sieves, each with a different size hole. The twenty-five piece set is known as 'gurbaal', with each individual sieve called 'tasah'. The tiniest pearls, passing through even the smallest sieve are known as 'seed pearls'. The Arabic name for pearl is lulu, but there are special names which describe the different pearls according to their size, shape, colour and degree of perfection. A big, perfect pearl is called 'dana'. The large, perfectly spherical pearl with a rosy tint, hardly any defects and a deep lustre is known as 'jiwan' or 'jiwana'; the most superior black pearl is 'jabaasi'. Sometimes the name is related to the colour, in others to the shape. 'Khardil' is black, 'sofri' yellow, 'sindaali' an almost apricot or flesh colour; 'adasi' is long and cylindrical, 'sujani' is the shape of a tear or a pear; 'khaisi' is a kind of combination shape - with the bottom rounded and the top rather elongated. Often, when the pearl is forming in the oyster, instead of being 'loose', it actually grows on the inner wall of the shell, like a blister or a bump. Then it is called 'nimro'.

Much to the amazement of visitors from the west - who perhaps expect the pearls to be kept in velvet-lined boxes - if you visit a pearl merchant and ask to see a selection of pearls, he will quite likely extract a plastic carrier bag from his safe, bulging with little knobbly muslin packages. Each will contain pearls of one type, and very often the cloth used is red, a colour originally used by the tawwash, and one which best displays the true colour and lustre of each pearl.

For a necklace, the pearls not only have to match in terms of lustre, clarity and colour, they are usually graded in size along the string (largest in the centre, smallest close to the clasp) or all of identical size. For unusual colours, say pink-tinged pearls, it can take thirty or more years to collect the right pearls! Piercing them for stringing is also a delicate task, since if they are overheated by the drill, they will break. And since commercial pearling has died out in the Gulf, there is now a premium on the price of its natural pearls. A necklace of perfect pearls which might have cost US$8,000 thirty years ago would now sell for hundreds of thousands! But don't worry, you can still buy just one pearl to use as a pendant on a fine chain!

Natural pearls retain their beauty for generations, and a valuable pearl necklace can well become an heirloom. Even if you don't want to buy a string of pearls - or feel the cost goes outside your holiday budget - you should still make the effort to see some of them while you're in Qatar - they really are beautiful, and a part of the country's heritage!

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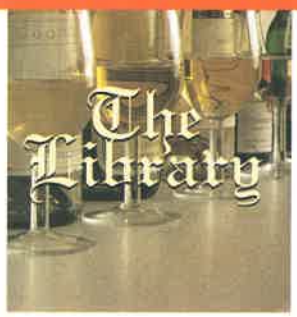

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A New Name for an Old Friend

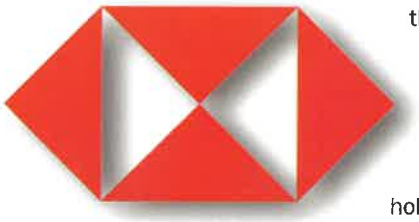
The red logo of HSBC is now becoming familiar in adverts and signage around Qatar, but in some respects, old habits die hard and it may be some time before nationals and residents here adjust fully to the new corporate identity of what they have known for forty four years as the British Bank!

Customers might differ as to their description of the logo - five red triangles enclosing two white ones, a red hexagon with two white triangles; a red and white square with two red triangles ... But they all agree that the familiar faces at the bank itself are still there; the range and level of banking services is as wide and efficient as ever, and as an added bonus, they can recognise their banking group wherever they travel in the world!

A new and highly visual campaign has been launched to promote the brand worldwide. One on a list of eight strategic imperatives for the banking group, the name change stresses that each branch is part of one of the largest banking groups in the world. Money moves around the world more frequently than ever before; people take extra holidays; and businessmen are making multi-destination trips. With 5,000 offices in 79 countries, account holders can never be far from an HSBC branch; the new identity reminds them of that. Even the design and decor of the branch and the staff uniforms will remind them of home!

Founded in 1889 as the Imperial Bank of Persia, the long-established British Bank of the Middle East first came to Qatar in 1955, and was purchased by the Hong Kong & Shanghai Banking Corporation way back in 1959. Ever since then, it has traded as part of the group, so the name change is, basically, just that – a change in name but not in philosophy!

Last year, to further strengthen the global corporate identity, and in line with a decision affecting all banks in the group, the Bank here started using the 'HSBC BritishBank' identification; now, advertising just carries the HSBC logo - and, as the posters and newspaper ads. stress, that logo will soon be as familiar to the general public as standard road signs!



It all goes to remind account holders here that when they travel abroad, they can approach any bank displaying the HSBC logo; they're guaranteed friendly help and advice and the transfer of funds can be organised quickly and easily.

Here in Qatar, the Bank will continue to sponsor local and regional events under the HSBC banner, and to ensure the very best of services for its clients. The range of services will increase, and with the move to a new specially designed Headquarters building on the Corniche in January 2000, the Bank will be one of the first in the Middle East to emerge in the new millennium with the new identity.

Doha Golf Club

Qatar has established itself as something of an international sports capital, and now the 27-hole Doha Golf Club is making its name amongst European travellers seeking to combine sun, sea, sand and a golfing holiday!

The Club, which opened two years ago, is attracting visitors from northern Europe through a series of golf packages, with the additional attraction of the Academy range, which can cater for groups of up to one hundred at a time. The oasis of green, carved out of the desert near Qatar University and the new West Bay Lagoon project, numbers senior businessmen and government officials amongst its members and attracts golfing professionals from around the world. Not only is the course spectacular, the Doha Golf Club offers superb restaurant facilities, caters for mini-conferences and business meetings, and has its own pro-shop.

One of the largest German tour operators, Airtours, has selected Doha as one of two destinations being offered for its Millennium Golf Tournament. (Players will fly in to Qatar on December 28th, have the opportunity to sightsee and visit the beautiful sand-dunes around the Inland Sea where they will be served a traditional Arabic dinner, and also start the new century by teeing off for the tournament on January 1st 2000).

The attractions of the Doha Golf Club will hopefully be spread through the Netherlands by Dutch golfers who came to Qatar for a pro-am tournament in the spring, whilst German golfers got the message through the Munich Press Golf Tournament, held here in Qatar. Officials from the Doha Golf Club have taken its message to Sweden, and this year participated in the Munich golf show for the first time. Both international and regional golfing enthusiasts have been targetted through the clubs participation in a series of travel shows - including the Arabian Travel Market in Dubai. Golfing packages are being set up with a number of overseas tour operators in association with the Sheraton Doha Hotel and Resort, the Doha Marriott Gulf Hotel and the Ramada Hotel.

Whilst the Doha Golf Club welcomes tourists and players from abroad, it also caters to the needs of nationals and residents. The Academy course is now floodlit, so that members can play later into the evenings - an advantage on working days and in the summer when the mid-day heat is too intense. The number of local and international tournaments being hosted by the club is continually on the increase, and the Doha Golf Club is also home to Qatar's National Team.

The Doha Golf Club encourages enthusiasts of all ages and all skill levels, offering professional coaching to both adults and children groups or one-on-one. Individual or family membership is available and there is also a separate category of membership for non-players.

For further information, contact
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Oil, Gas & Petrochemicals

Despite the increasing diversification of Qatar's economy, oil, gas and petrochemicals form its backbone. Bearing that in mind, we introduced this special, regular, section for the first time in the March 1999 edition of Marhaba.

Updated in each issue, the oil, gas and petrochemical section carries background information on companies involved in the business here. It also includes updates on new ventures, and refers to changes which have occurred in the global, local and regional situation since the previous issue.

As well as its vast export potential, gas from Qatar's huge North Field provides cheap energy for a variety of new joint ventures in the country; they, in turn, bring in new employees, strengthening the local market.

If you are in business in Qatar, or based outside but doing business here, then you are almost certainly affected by changes in the oil, gas and petrochemicals sector - regardless of your own areas of interest and expertise.

This section of Marhaba aims to give readers a simple, easy to understand overview of the latest trends and we invite all those companies whose work is related to oil, gas and petrochemicals development in Qatar to contribute information on their present and future projects here.

We hope you will find this information useful, informative and interesting whether you are a resident or a visitor to the country.

THE Global Situation

The 3rd Doha Conference on Natural gas in March highlighted both the growing world demand for natural gas, and the relatively high transportation costs for LNG from the Gulf, with several speakers recommending that gas producers also look towards pipeline delivery to nearby geographical markets. At the same time, Qatar and the UAE proposed the development of an 800km gas pipeline, the start of a GCC gas grid. The US$8 - 10 billion "Dolphin"project to make Qatari gas available in the GCC market is expected to be completed over a period of around seven years, with the pipeline stretching to the UAE and Oman and the grid potentially expanding at a later date to include Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. Following the Emir's visit to Islamabad in April, discussions were also revived on the possibility of building a natural gas pipeline to Pakistan, possibly as an extension to that being built for the grid.
In view of fluctuating oil prices, delegates at the conference also expressed the hope that a formula could be found to separate pricing of gas from that of oil.

At the end of 1998 and the beginning of 1999, a slump in oil prices threatened to affect the economies of all producing nations. When OPEC and non-OPEC producers announced agreement on a further combined production cut of 2.014 million barrels per day, effective from April 1st, oil prices showed some slight improvement on world markets. However Qatar, with roughly a 70% dependence on oil revenues, went ahead and announced its 1999/2000 budget, based on oil prices of US$10 per barrel. Qatar's Dukhan 40 (which was selling at US$23.24 per barrel on January 1st 1997) had dropped to $10.50 per barrel by January 1st 1999, but had risen again to $14.56 by April 9th. By July, oil prices had risen to 18-month highs, with analysts optimistic the levels could be maintained.

At the beginning of April, BP Amoco confirmed that, following a successful outcome to talks between the two companies, it has reached agreement to combine with the Atlantic Richfield Company (ARCO) of Los Angeles. The US$ 26.8 billion deal agreed by the boards of both companies makes the new company the biggest non-state oil producer in the world, with a combined market capitalisation of some US$190 billion. The improved economics are expected to drive Alaska growth and provide a quantum leap in the Asian gas position. Internationally, the deal will add major volumes for BP Amoco in S.E. Asia, where ARCO has an estimated net share of up to 8 trillion cubic feet in the Tannguh gas field, regarded as one of the best LNG projects in that region. ARCO's concession in Qatar's North Field is a potential supplier of gas for the GCC pipeline project. During 1997, a consortium including ARCO and British Gas secured certain rights to supply gas to the GCC, and in March 1999 it was announced that an outline agreement had been reached between QGPC and the UAE's Offset Group for the supply of up to 3 billion cubic feet of gas per day to the UAE.

April saw the end of the SEC "quiet period" under which Mobil was operating, and during which they "could not comment on any possible forward actions or even speculate on them" with respect to the Exxon Mobil merger. However, by July there was still no indication of what effect, if any, there may be on Mobil operations in Qatar.

Following the merger of Total with Belgium's Petrofina, to form Total Fina, in June, Elf became the focus of a hostile takeover bid by Total Fina. If successful, the merger would make the new company the fourth largest oil and gas producer worldwide.

UPDATES ON Qatar's Oil Industry

The low oil prices at the end of 1998 and in early 1999, together with a series of OPEC-agreed production cuts, left companies like Occidental Petroleum (Oxy), cutting back on staff in Qatar. However, in June they advertised for companies to prequalify in the provision of office space on a seven to ten year lease from April 2001. Earlier in the year, Arco were rumoured to be looking to sell their interests in Qatar's Al Rayyan field, but this speculation died down with the subsequent news of their merger discussions and the progress on plans for a GCC gas grid. Arco and British Gas joined the Wintershall consortium in 1994, with Arco as the operator; production from the field was around 30,000 BOPD at the end of 1998.

The state-owned Qatar General Petroleum Corporation, QCPC, also experienced a period of "rationalisation", with a continued restraint on recruitment, and a paring down of some departments where duplication of effort existed.

However, in the first quarter of this year, QGPC opened new modern facilities on Halul Island, including a new heliport, houses for 600 employees and workers, a health centre and a sports club at a total cost of QR 24 million. When he officially opened the facilities, Minister of Energy, Industry, Electricity and Water, Abdullah Bin Hamad Al Attiyah, said that work is also underway on the island for the establishment of two huge oil storage tanks, with 550,000 barrel capacity, increasing total storage facilities on Halul to 4 million barrels.

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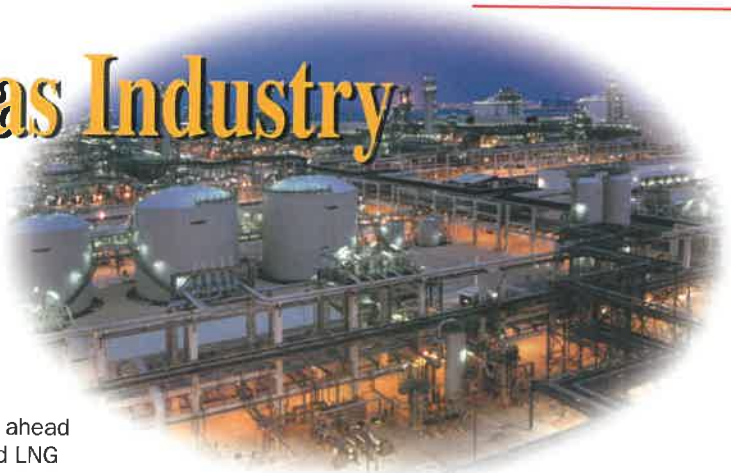
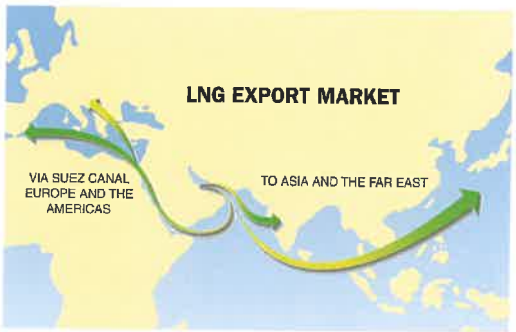
UPDATES ON Qatar's Gas Industry



The most significant event in the development of Qatar's gas industry was the export of the first shipments from the country's second LNG project, the $3.4 billion Ras Laffan LNG Company (RasGas). Construction and commissioning of onshore and offshore plant had been completed ahead of schedule, and RasGas streamed LNG production in May. As a result, RasGas was able to export condensate to the UAE and a spot cargo of LNG to the USA before its first scheduled export, to long-term buyer Korea Gas Corporation (Kogas). That shipment left as scheduled, in August, as part of a 25 year take-or-pay Sales and Purchase Agreement (SPA), to supply 4.8MPTA of LNG to Korea. The company has also signed an MoU with Petronet of India under which RasGas would sell 7.5MTPA of LNG to India for a period of 25 years. 5 MMTA would be supplied to Petronet's Dahej Terminal in Gujrat, and 2.5 MMTA to Cochin in the southern state of Kerala. (See the RasGas profile in this section of Marhaba)

Proposals for a GCC gas grid would enable Qatar to develop its potential as the supply gas to the region



Qatargas, meanwhile, expects to export more than 88 LNG cargoes during 1999, increasing its annual North Field Condensate production to 14.7 million barrels. One more LNG carrier has been delivered to the company since the last issue of Marhaba - the 'Doha' on June 1st, and 'Al Bidda' is scheduled for delivery on November 1st.

Qatar's Ministry of Energy, Industry, Electricity and Water, Abdullah Bin Hamad Al Attiyah, is on record as saying that the key to Qatar's growth in the world LNG market is its excess capacity. That, he says, enables the country to provide incremental sales to existing customers, expand the customer base via spot sales, and provides smaller aggregate sales quantities or build-up volumes which offer both the timing and financial flexibility to capture new long-term sales.

Enhanced Gas Utilisation Project

Investigations are currently underway for a gas-to-liquids project, to be based at Ras Laffan Industrial City, which would involve the participation of QGPC (51%), Sasol (34%) and Phillips Petroleum Company (15%). SASOL is a petrochemical company based in South Africa, and has manufacturing facilities there for the conversion of coal to synthetic fuels via Fischer-Tropsch, and has developed the Sasol Slurry Phase Distillate process using Fischer-Tropsch technology to convert natural gas to high quality liquid fuels. The conversion of gas to liquids ensures maximum utilisation of gas reserves, prevents environmental degradation and wastage of resources, and complements the marketing of LNG. The end products are suited for use as environment-friendly transport fuels.

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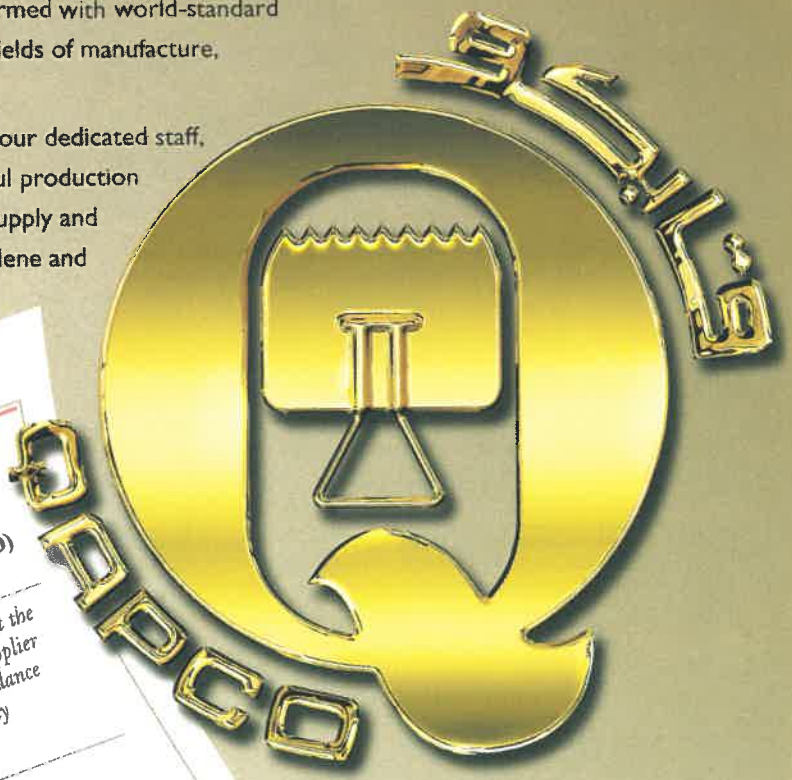

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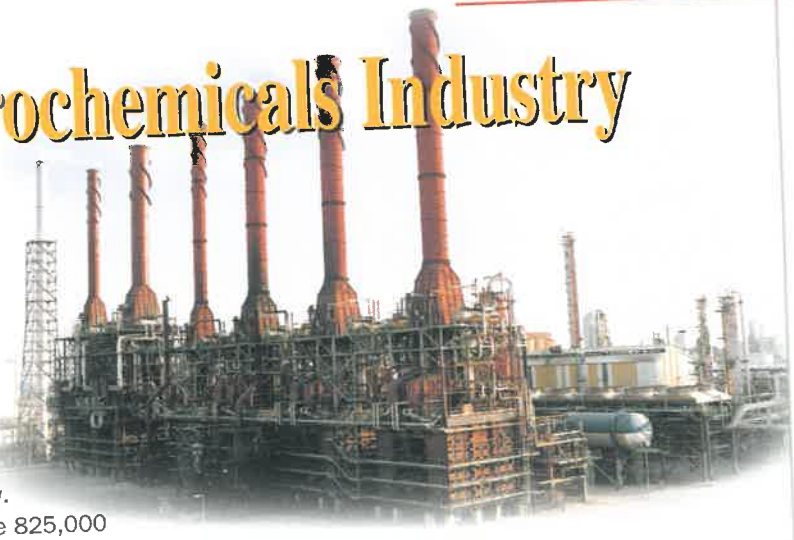
UPDATES ON Qatar's Petrochemicals Industry



Q-CHEM, the joint venture between QGPC and Phillips Petroleum to produce ethylene, polyethylene and hexane-1 went to tender in the first quarter of 1999.

Qatar Fuel Additives Company (QAFAC), was scheduled to go into production in the middle of 1999, with its first shipment due out now. QAFAC has the capacity to produce 825,000 metric tons of methanol per year, and 610,000 metric tonnes of MTBE.

Work is meanwhile underway on the site for Qatar Vinyl Company (QVC) at Mesaieed, a US$430 million joint venture between QAPCO, QGPC, Norsk Hydro and Elf Altochem for the production of ethylene dichloride, vinyl chloride monomer, and caustic soda. Production is not, however, expected to begin before the scheduled date in the second quarter of 2001. A proposed second-phase expansion of the plant calls for the introduction of a polyvinyl chloride (PVC) facility early in the 21st century.

At the beginning of March 1999, QGPC and ENICHEM agreed to sign a Letter of Understanding (LOU) to carry out a Pre-feasibility Study (PFS) for the development of a new project in Mesaieed to produce toluene diisocyanate (TDI). Once the PFS has been evaluated, a detailed feasibility study can be carried out. TDI is used in the production of polyurethane foam which has numerous applications in the furniture business, the automotive industry, and is used as an insulating material for household appliances such as refrigerators and in the construction industry. The main feedstock - natural gas, chlorine and ammonia, would be provided by QGPC, Qatar Vinyl company (QVC) and Qatar Fertiliser company (QAFCO).

A polypropylene unit with propane dehydrogenation is also under consideration, involving QGPC and one of its European partners. Although the proposed project is at an early stage of study, it is likely to attract more attention once the QVC project is well underway.

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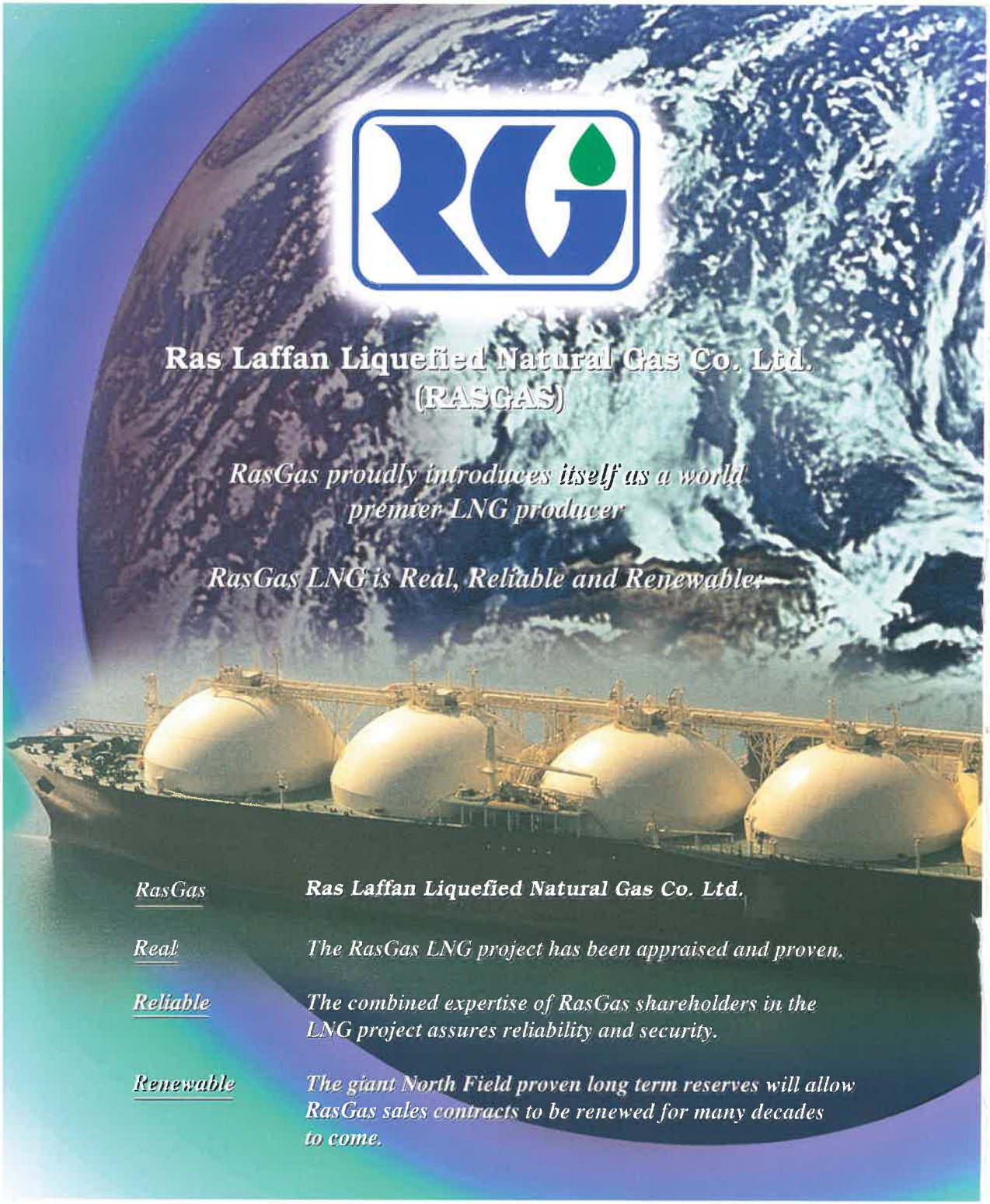
Ras Laffan Liquefied Natural Gas Co. Ltd.

Inauguration Ceremony

October 23, 1999



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Ras Laffan Liquefied Natural Gas Co. Ltd.
P.O. Box 24200, Doha - State of Qatar ص.ب : ٢٤٢٠٠ الدوحة – قطر

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RasGas

Ras Laffan Liquefied Natural Gas Co. Ltd.

The Ras Laffan Liquefied Natural Gas Company Limited (RasGas) is Qatar's second LNG project. The new $3.3bn company scored a major achievement in May 1999 when LNG production came on stream six weeks ahead of schedule.

The RasGas plant is to be officially inaugurated by His Highness the Emir Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, on October 23rd, in the presence of over 1000 VIPs and guests. The dignitaries and visitors hail from Qatar and abroad and represent governments, ministries, customers, business partners, financial institutions, and project sponsors. The inaugural gala will celebrate the commencement of RasGas operations, a major accomplishment that has been years in the making. Hundreds of thousands of hours have been devoted to the project and seeing it up and running in a place where a few years ago there was only desert is a major source of pride for the State of Qatar, the project sponsors, and RasGas itself.

Established by Emiri Decree in 1993, RasGas is currently owned by QGPC, Mobil, Itochu and Nissho Iwai. Long-term customer Korea Gas Corporation (Kogas) has an option to acquire a 5% interest in the company, after which the participating equity interests in RasGas will be: QGPC - 63%, Mobil - 25%, Kogas - 5%, Itochu - 4%, and Nissho Iwai - 3%. Two years after it was established, in October 1995, RasGas signed a 25-year take-or-pay sale and purchase agreement (SPA) with Kogas, which made the company's dream of supplying Qatar's North Field gas to world markets an almost certain reality. The last hurdle to viability came in December 1996 when a major international capital project financing was closed, bringing $2.4 billion in bond and bank funding, in addition to the shareholders' own equity contributions, to the project. The financing allowed large-scale drilling and construction activities to commence in early 1997. The genesis of the project was officially marked when the plant's foundation stone was laid by HH the Heir Apparent in May 1997.

Just two years later, in May of 1999, one of RasGas' two processing units, called trains, began running, producing LNG for sale to Kogas and condensate for sale into the world markets. Early commissioning and start-up of the plant allowed the company to sell condensate and spot LNG cargoes even earlier than expected, ahead of the first scheduled sale to Kogas. RasGas made its first export of condensate, to the UAE, in late May, followed by its first shipment of LNG to CMS Energy of the USA in late June. The first shipment to Kogas sailed from Ras Laffan port in late August and its arrival in Korea in early September was heralded with a welcoming ceremony.

The Drilling Program

Offshore drilling began in April 1997. Using two jack-up drilling rigs, RasGas completed the drilling of the first ten wells by August 1998 and expects to complete the remaining five wells by the end of this year. The wells will produce natural gas and condensate from the Khuff formation at a subsea depth of 9,500 feet.

The Offshore Facilities

The RasGas offshore production facilities are located to the northeast of Ras Laffan, approximately 92 km offshore. The facilities will produce and dehydrate in excess of one billion standard cubic feet of gas per day, which will be transported ashore through a 32-inch diameter pipeline. The offshore facilities are powered by three gas turbine generators, with a total capacity of 9 mega watts. There are seven separate offshore structures with four topside bridges connecting all of them except two of the wellhead platforms. The topside structures include three wellhead platforms; each designed to produce 500 million cubic feet of gas per day, a riser platform and a process and utilities platform. The living quarters (LQ) platform accommodates 101 workers and provides a control room and related facilities.

The offshore producing facilities were constructed by McDermott at Jebel Ali in the UAE. Most of the offshore structures, except the process and utilities topsides, were lifted into place by the McDermott heavy lift crane barge. However, the 4500 ton process and utilities topsides were too heavy for the crane barge and therefore had to be floated into place and lowered over the platform jacket using a unique sand-jack method. The LQ Platform was built in Southport, Louisiana, USA and was shipped by barge all the way to Qatar.

The Onshore Facilities

The onshore LNG plant, located at Ras Laffan City, 80 km north of Doha, consists of inlet gas reception and treatment facilities, a condensate stabilization unit, a gas liquefaction and refrigeration unit, a sulfur recovery unit, storage and loading facilities, and supporting utilities. The control systems incorporated in the facilities have utilized very sophisticated control links. The SAP system, Real Time Information System, Distributed Control System and Laboratory Information System are linked from offshore to onshore via an optical fiber cable laid along the seabed. The Network Link (LAN) supports the whole Electronic Data Management System. The onshore LNG plant was constructed by the JGC-MW-Kellogg consortium.

In addition to LNG from the two production trains, the onshore facilities are designed to produce over 43,000 barrels of stabilized condensate and 300 tons of sulfur daily. Three 140,000 cubic meter LNG storage tanks, rated the largest above-ground LNG storage tanks in the world, plus two 150,000 barrel capacity plant condensate storage tanks and three 365,000 barrel capacity field condensate tanks hold the finished product inventories awaiting shipment.

Records Set

During peak construction periods, over 8,000 people were working together on the onshore construction facilities and RasGas is proud of its safety record of 50 million man-hours with just two minor lost time accidents. In fact, over 34 million man-hours were worked without one single lost time accident. Several other North Field and Middle East records were set during

RasGas construction. One of the wells was drilled to a total depth of 13,090 feet in just 39 days - the fastest in the North Field. Other records were also set for the fastest daily drilling of an 8 1/2 inch hole (443 feet) and for long barrel coring with full recovery (403 feet).

Without the experience, professionalism and commitment to excellence of RasGas employees and contractors, these records could not have been achieved.

Commitment to State of Qatar and RasGas Employees

The company employs a number of young Qatari nationals and has mapped out full career development programs for them. In addition, several Qataris occupy senior positions on the management team. RasGas has also adopted policies aimed at increasing the percentage of nationals in the workforce and has recently taken the progressive step of hiring Qatari women. The company further shows its commitment to the country and its residents by actively participating in community programs and sponsoring a number of local sporting, cultural, and educational events.

To show its commitment to safeguarding the health and safety of its employees and the public and conserving the environment, the company developed its own dedicated Environmental Health & Safety (EHS) department. RasGas also completed a comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment and implemented the requirements in the plant's design in order to ensure that Qatar's coastal and offshore environments remain fully protected. Its pro-active environment policy has led to the documentation of flora and fauna in Ras Laffan, the introduction of campaigns to protect and extend the mangrove plantations, protect turtle nesting beaches, encourage birdwatching, and protect the overall marine environment. A major task for the EHS department is working with the community, the public and the regulatory bodies to develop new environmental standards for industrial development in the State of Qatar.

At the end of May 1999, RasGas moved its administrative offices to the Ras Laffan site, keeping only a skeleton staff in Doha. Gradually all staff and their families will be moved from Doha to the company's new residential complex in Al-Khor, 30 km south of the plant site at Ras Laffan City. The complex will have first-class health, education, recreation and leisure facilities and will enable staff to cut down on travel time to and from work.

The Future

Initially RasGas will produce 6.4 MMTA of LNG from its two trains. However, the company's vision is to add processing trains as demand develops, with the goal of having at least six trains in total. To bring that goal to fruition, extensive marketing campaigns have been carried out in India, China, Taiwan, Turkey and other countries around the globe. The company's marketing efforts paid off this summer. At the end of July, RasGas signed an SPA with Petronet LNG of India to sell 7.5 MMTA of LNG for a period of 25 years commencing in 2003. Then, just three days later, the company entered into a Heads of Agreement with Dakshin Bharat Energy Consortium, also of India, to supply 2.6 MMTA of LNG for 20 years starting in 2003.

RasGas is excited about the opportunities that it sees to sell its LNG, the cleanest hydrocarbon fuel available and clearly the fuel of the future, not only to Korea and India but also to the rest of the world.

Sowing the Seeds of Success

Three decades of commitment to our customers are now bearing fruit. QAFCO high quality Ammonia and Urea are increasingly helping countries improve agricultural yields, contributing to higher standards of living around the world.

We're also most proud of our certification to ISO 9002 and recently to ISO 14001 standard, the first such certification awarded to a company in the Middle East.

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QAFCO

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In Profile

Qatar Fertiliser Company (QAFCO) is a leading producer of Ammonia and Urea and its mission is to grow into a world-class producer. From an initial annual output of 120,000 tons of ammonia and 70,000 tons of urea in 1974, it has progressively increased its production capacity to 1.3 million metric tons of ammonia and 1.6 million metric tons of urea from three integrated fertiliser trains, QAFCO 1 (completed in 1973), QAFCO 2, added in 1979, and QAFCO 3, completed in 1997. With QAFCO 3, the company started producing high quality granular urea with a daily design production capacity of 2,000 metric tons.

The Company was founded in 1969, as a joint venture between the State of Qatar, Norsk Hydro, Davy Powergas and Hambros Bank. Today, the State-owned Qatar General Petroleum Corporation (QGPC) has a 75% stake, with Norsk Hydro as a 25% shareholder. The company has been instrumental to the government's industrial diversification programme, helping to optimise use of Qatar's natural resources. QAFCO formed the basis of Mesaieed Industrial City, a rapidly expanding area, the infrastructure of which is being further developed.

Thanks to high quality products, the plant's strategic geographical location, efficient shipping arrangements and dependability in terms of supply, the company has a very significant share in the global fertiliser market, and exports to over 20 countries worldwide.

Despite the economic turmoil in the world over the past eighteen months, QAFCO is capitalising on its conspicuous success. New sales contracts have also been signed in the past six months, increasing the size of QAFCO's United

States and Australian markets, supplementing the well-established markets in Asia and the Far East.

The company is determined to develop further, and initial studies for a further ammonia/urea extension project are underway. QAFCO 4, anticipated for the year 2002, would make Qatar Fertiliser Company the largest single producer of ammonia and urea in the world. It is already the largest single fertiliser producer in the Middle East.

QAFCO has its own desalination plant in Mesaieed, and loading jetties are alongside the plant. Jetty No. 1 is 214 metres long, and has two berths: berth 1 for the loading of bulk prilled urea and ammonia, and berth 2 for bag urea loading. Jetty 2 is 165 metres long, and its single berth is used for the loading of bulk granular urea. In terms of storage facilities, QAFCO has three fully refrigerated 67,000 metric ton storage tanks for ammonia; two bulk halls with a total capacity of 200,000 metric tons for urea storage — 100,000 mt for prilled urea and 100,000 mt for granular urea. Ammonia can be loaded for export at the rate of 450 mt per hour; bulk urea at 6,000 mt per weather working day and bagged urea at 1,500 mt per weather working day.

QAFCO employs more than 850 people of over twenty different nationalities. It is dedicated to the constant training and development of its employees to keep up-to-date with the latest technical, health, safety and environmental developments, and conducts a number of seminars and courses in conjunction with QGPC. QAFCO also carries out training in association with international organisations and universities,

and maintains close co-operation with local educational establishments for the recruitment of Qatari nationals. In line with the country's Qatarisation programme, approximately 20% of the workforce are Qataris, and the percentage is set to grow in the coming years.

Most employees live in the Mesaieed area, where the company provides housing, sports,

education and leisure facilities for them and their families. QAFCO has an active community development programme, and sponsors a number of prominent local events, including the annual QAFCO Flower and Vegetable Show, and the QAFCO Open Tennis Championship. It also contributes to major academic, sports and social activities throughout the country.

In terms of health, safety and environmental issues, QAFCO has its own medical clinic, resident doctor and fully trained health and safety officials. A fully developed incident prevention programme includes training in health and safety procedures, the use of safety equipment, hazard communication and regular inspections. Safety information stations throughout the site provide essential information regarding health precautions and safety rules and QAFCO has developed extensive emergency preparedness plans. Families are not forgotten either. Each QAFCO home is fitted with fire and safety equipment, and regular courses are run to teach wives and children the proper use of fire extinguishers. Recent courses gave some of the wives the opportunity, in a controlled training environment, to tackle a real fire, ensuring that they had confidence in their classroom training.

Protection of the environment is one of the company's top priorities, and as a tool for developing its own environmental management system, QAFCO adopted the International Environment Rating System. The company was certified for ISO 14001 in 1997, becoming the first chemical fertiliser manufacturer in the Middle East to do so.

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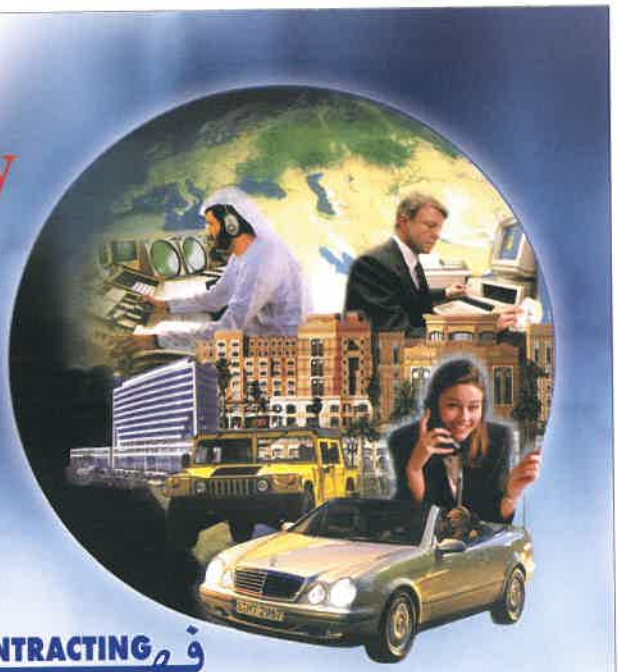

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QATAR GENERAL PETROLEUM CORPORATION (QGPC)

The State-owned Qatar General Petroleum Corporation (QGPC) was established twenty five years ago (July 1974), and is responsible for all phases of the Qatari oil and gas industries both within the country and overseas. Since its interests cover exploration and drilling, production, refining, transportation and storage and extend to derivatives and byproducts of the two industries, QGPC acts as a hub for all the oil gas and petrochemical activities in the State. The areas operated by QGPC are estimated to have oil reserves of 3.1 billion barrels, whilst proven and probable gas reserves in the massive North Field are estimated to exceed 63 billion BOE (barrels of oil equivalent).

QGPC's varied administrative and production activities are carried out onshore in Doha, Dukhan, Mesaieed and Ras Laffan, whilst its offshore areas include a number of offshore drilling platforms and production stations in addition to Halul Island with its major storage facility.

QGPC's subsidiaries and joint ventures include the following shareholdings:

National Oil Distribution Company (NODCO)	**100%**
Qatar Fertiliser Company (QAFCO)	**75%**
Qatar Fuel Additives Company (QAFAC)	**50%**
Qatar Jet Fuel Company (QATARJET) owned by NODCO	**60%**
Qatar Liquefied Gas Co (QATARGAS)	**65%**
Qatar Petrochemical Company (QAPCO)	**80%**
Ras Laffan LNG Company (RasGas)	**66.5%**

Other investments are:

Arab Shipbuilding and Repair Yard C. (ASRY - Bahrain)	**18.8%**
Qatar Shipping Company (Q-Ship)	**15%**

Nodco Oil Refinery at Mesaieed

Arab Maritime Petroleum Transport Co. (AMPTC - Kuwait)	**14.8%**
Arab Petroleum Investments Corp. (APICORP - Saudi Arabia)	**10%**
Arab Petroleum Services Co. (APSC - Libya)	**10%**
Qatar Electricity & Water Co. (QEWCO)	**10%**
Arab Petroleum Pipelines Co. (SUMED - Egypt)	**5%**

QGPC has overall control of the 100 sq.km Ras Laffan Industrial City with its LNG export terminal, and Mesaieed Industrial City, where new projects underway include the expansion of the Nodco refinery and construction of a condensate refinery; the construction of a new petrochemicals complex, Q-Chem; Qatar Vinyl Company (QVC) ; Qatar Hot Briquetted Iron Co. (QABICO) ; and QGPC's NGL-4 project.

QGPC has announced plans to develop and modernise both Mesaieed Industrial City's port and infrastructure, with QGPC Chairman (Minister of Energy Industry, Electricity & Water, Abdullah Bin Hamad Al Attiyah) quoted as saying the estimated cost would be QR 400 million. Mesaieed Industrial City Management was established in 1996 as a single authority to provide services to businesses in the area. The industrial area, which covers 40 square kilometres, was first developed in 1960, and houses the existing NODCO Oil Refinery, the QAFCO fertiliser and QAPCO petrochemicals complexes, the QGPC NGL plant, the QAFAC and QALCO (Qatar Lubricants Company) plants, and the Qatar Steel Company (QASCO) mill.

QGPC has also been involved in studies for, or implementation of, a number of projects including proposals for an aluminium smelter. Although a preliminary agreement was signed between QGPC and Norsk Hydro for a joint venture, expected initially to produce 200,000 tonnes of aluminium a year from 2002, the project has been put on "hold".

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QATARGAS

Qatar Liquefied Natural Gas Company (Qatargas), the country's first grassroots LNG company, began export in 1996 and by the first quarter of 1998, all three production production trains - with a capacity of 6mtpa were on stream. Qatargas is owned by QGPC (65%), Total S.A. (10%), Mobil (10%), Mitsui & Company (7.5%), and Marubeni Corporation (7.5%). Its upstream facilities develop an offshore area of about 100sq.km. and produce 1200MSCFD of North Field gas to supply the three downstream trains. Qatargas signed an SPA with Chubu Electric Power Co. Inc. of Japan for the delivery of 4mtpa of LNG for 25 years; another SPA was signed in 1994 with Chubu and seven additional Japanese buyers (Tohoku Electric Power Co. Inc., The Tokyo Electric Power Co. Inc., the Kansai Electric Power Co. Inc., the Chugoku Electric Power Co. Inc., Tokyo Gas Co. Ltd., Osaka Gas Co. Ltd., and Toho Gas Co. Ltd.) for the delivery of 2mtpa of LNG.

Qatargas is set to increase its LNG sales to more than 88 cargoes this year, with annual NFC (North Field Condensate) production increasing to 14.7 million barrels. In addition to its long-term agreements, Qatargas has secured a series of spot sales agreements to Enagas S.A. of Spain, and Botas of Turkey. It is also scheduled to sell 1.4 million barrels of QRC, 40 thousand tons of sulphur, and 81.9 billion SCF of NF1/NF2 Gas transfer to the domestic gas supply.

RASGAS

Ras Laffan LNG Company (RasGas), is the newest of Qatar's LNG ventures. (see profile in this section) The company began production on May 23rd 1999, with the first condensates exported to the UAE in May,

and the first LNG cargo exported on June 23rd 1999, seven weeks ahead of schedule. The first shipment, a spot sale to a US buyer, preceded its first scheduled export to Kogas of Korea on August 20th 1999 under a 25 year contract for the supply of 4.8 mtpa. The contract is due to come into force in phases, with 600,000 tonnes expected to be exported in 1999, 3.3 million tonnes in 2000, 4.2 million tonnes in 2001, and the full 4.8 mtpa from 2002 onwards.

QATAR FERTILISER COMPANY (QAFCO)

QAFCO was established back in 1969, and was the first industrial complex to be located in Mesaieed (then called Umm Said) in 1973. The company produces ammonia and urea, and markets those products. It is owned 75% by QGPC, with the balance held by the Norwegian company, Norsk Hydro. There have been three expansion projects - the first in 1979, the third in 1997, which have resulted in QAFCO being the largest producer of fertilisers in the Middle East. (For further details, see the QAFCO profile in this section).

QATAR PETROCHEMICAL COMPANY (QAPCO)

QAPCO, which currently produces and markets ethylene, polyethylene and sulphur, was established in 1974, and production began in 1980. QAPCO's seven year refinancing mandate was awarded to Banque Paribas and Gulf International Bank in June 1998, with Qatar

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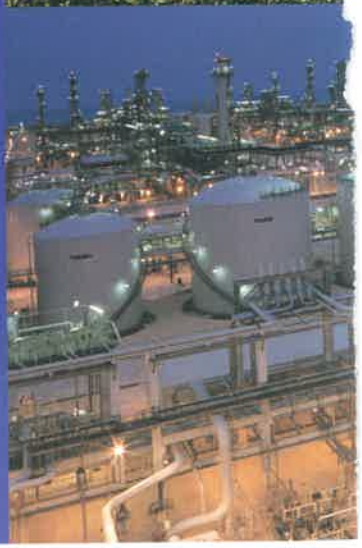

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National Bank acting as arranger. All three were involved in the original six and a half year US$ 200 million borrowing, which was secured in 1994. QAPCO is the first industrial entity in the state to have sought refinancing of its debt, although analysts say it is likely to be a future trend for other companies here.

In 1998, QAPCO sold 137,000 metric tons of ethylene; 359,000 metric tons of low density polyethylene (LDPE); and 119,000 metric tons of sulphur, using ethane-rich gas fed from the adjacent NGL plant. QGPC owns 80% of QAPCO, with the balance owned by Elf Atochem of France (10%) and Enichem of Italy (10%). When it first came on stream nearly 20 years ago, it was the first petrochemical complex of its kind in the Arabian Gulf; Its expansion project (which began in 1994) increased ethylene production capacity, doubled LDPE production and added power generation and desalination units, nitrogen producing plant and other facilities.

QATAR VINYL COMPANY

The feasibility study for Qatar's new vinyl project was completed in 1996, and the contract for the US$430 million joint venture project was signed in early 1997. Qatar Vinyl Company (QVC) was formed by Emiri Decree on 11th December 1997. The shareholding is: Qatar General Petroleum Corporation (QGPC) 25.5%; Qatar Petrochemical Company (QAPCO) 31.9%; Norsk Hydro Co. 29.7% and Elf Atochem 12.9%. Since QGPC has an 80% share in QAPCO, it makes the State's total shareholding in QVC 51%.

The QVC factory is to be located in Mesaieed, next to QAPCO on the western side, and it will cover an area of just over 320,000 sq.m. The EPC contract was signed with Krupp Uhde Gmbh and Technip Italy SPA for the execution of a Lump Sum Turnkey Project. The QVC finance and EPC agreements were signed in mid-December 1998, and the 13-year financing contract is guaranteed by a number of international banks.

Commissioning is scheduled for June 2001, with the completion certificate expected to be issued in December of the same year. The company aims to produce 175,000 (180,000) metric tonnes of ethylene dichloride (EDC), 230,000 (220,000) metric tons of vinylchloride monomer (VCM) and 290,000 metric tonnes of caustic soda (NaOH) per year. Both EDC and VCM are raw materials for polyvinyl chloride (PVC), the plastic used in many industries, whilst the caustic soda is utilised by different spheres of the chemicals industry.

Each of the QVC partners will share in the marketing responsibility, and East Asia is expected to form a large part of the market, with goods being shipped by sea from the shared QAPCO port facilities. Some 28% of the QVC products will be bought by QAPCO, which will also provide the ethylene feedstock. QAPCO will also provide a number of facilities to assist the company in its early days, so that the initial workforce at QVC is expected to number around 200. Initially, industrial salt will be imported for the QVC production process, but there are plans for it to be produced here in Qatar.

QATAR PLASTIC PRODUCTS COMPANY

QPPC is a US$ 40 milion project between Qatar Industrial Manufacturing Company (QIMC) 33.375%, QAPCO 33.375% and Febo of Italy 33.330% to produce heavy-duty plastic bags. It has an installed capacity of 22,000,000 bags per year, 700 tons of sheet per year. It is expected to be commissioned in October of this year. The company will supply heavy duty plastic bags to QAPCO for the packaging of its products, reducing Qatar's dependence on imported bags of that quality.

QATAR SALT COMPANY

There are plans under discussion for a US$285 joint venture between Qatar and German investors for a plant in Mesaieed to produce 2.1 million tons of salt per year, to be supplied to

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Although AFI's main activity is hydraulics, it continues to diversify: Aeroquip hoses and fittings; seals; gaskets; O-rings; foundations; transport; bulkhandling; filtration; pneumatics and industrial weighing equipment. In the field of safety, AFI carries rescue equipment and also safe-load indicators for cranes.

AFI Qatar is currently working in accordance with a quality control manual developed to the stringent ISO 9001 standard, and expects ISO certification later this year.

AFI manufactures all kinds of hydraulic seals, O-rings and non-metallic gaskets, and can produce items, if necessary, within one hour! For seven years AFI has been the sole manufacturer of Seal Jet-AFI seals, which are machined to the highest tolerances, allowing the seal to be tailored to various customer needs.

AFI's fully equipped workshop can also : mount cranes, wet kits and other hydraulic equipment for road transport on trucks and trailers; repair and maintain pumps and hydraulic cylinders. The workshop can manufacture a cylinder with diameters of up to 10" and a closed length of 30 feet. AFI offers complete cylinder rebuilds to breathe new life into old equipment. AFI - "the true one stop hydraulic shop." The Company's dedication to customer satisfaction and service proves it all.

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local industrial consumers and regional markets. The plant's feedstock would be sea water, but more specifically the more concentrated outfall from the desalination plants in Mesaieed Industrial City. The crude salt would be stockpiled and then refined, rendering a product with 99.5% purity. In addition to the production of industrial salt for the petrochemicals industry, the plant would also be likely to offer custom salt and table salt.

QATAR FUEL ADDITIVES COMPANY

This month, (September '99) QAFAC is due to send out the first shipment from its methanol and MTBE plants, which began production in the middle of the year.

Established In 1990, Qafac's Shareholders are: QGPC (50%); Chinese Petroleum Corporation - CPC (20%), Lee Chang Yung Chemical Industry Corporation - LCYCIC 15% And International Octane Ltd. - IOL 15%. The foundation stone for the complex, in Mesaieed, was laid in December 1997. The production capacity is 825,000 metric tons of methanol per year, and 610,000 of MTBE. the methanol is used to produce cleaner-burning fuel for motor vehicles; it is also used in the production of other chemicals such as formaldehyde. MTBE production also uses butane which, together with natural gas, is provided by the nearby NGL complex belonging to QGPC.

QATAR LUBRICANTS COMPANY (QALCO)

The state's first lubricant blending plant, QALCO was commissioned in November 1997; it is owned by the Qatar Industrial Services Company and has both plant and laboratory facilities. Production design is for over 20,000 metric tons per year of lubricants, predominantly focused on the Qatari market. (For more information on the company and its products, see the Motoring Section of this magazine)

Q-CHEM

Q-Chem is a petrochemical joint-venture between Phillips Petroleum Company Qatar and QGPC to manufacture polyethylene in Qatar using Marlex polyethylene technology. The joint venture agreement was signed in November 1997, and the invitation to bid for the EPC contract was issued in June 1998. work is expected to commence on the site at Mesaieed in late 1999 and production should start in early 2002. The plant will also produce Hexene and Ethylene.

Phillips Petroleum Company is a world-wide integrated energy company that explores for and produces oil, natural gas and gas liquids, as well as chemicals refining and transportation.

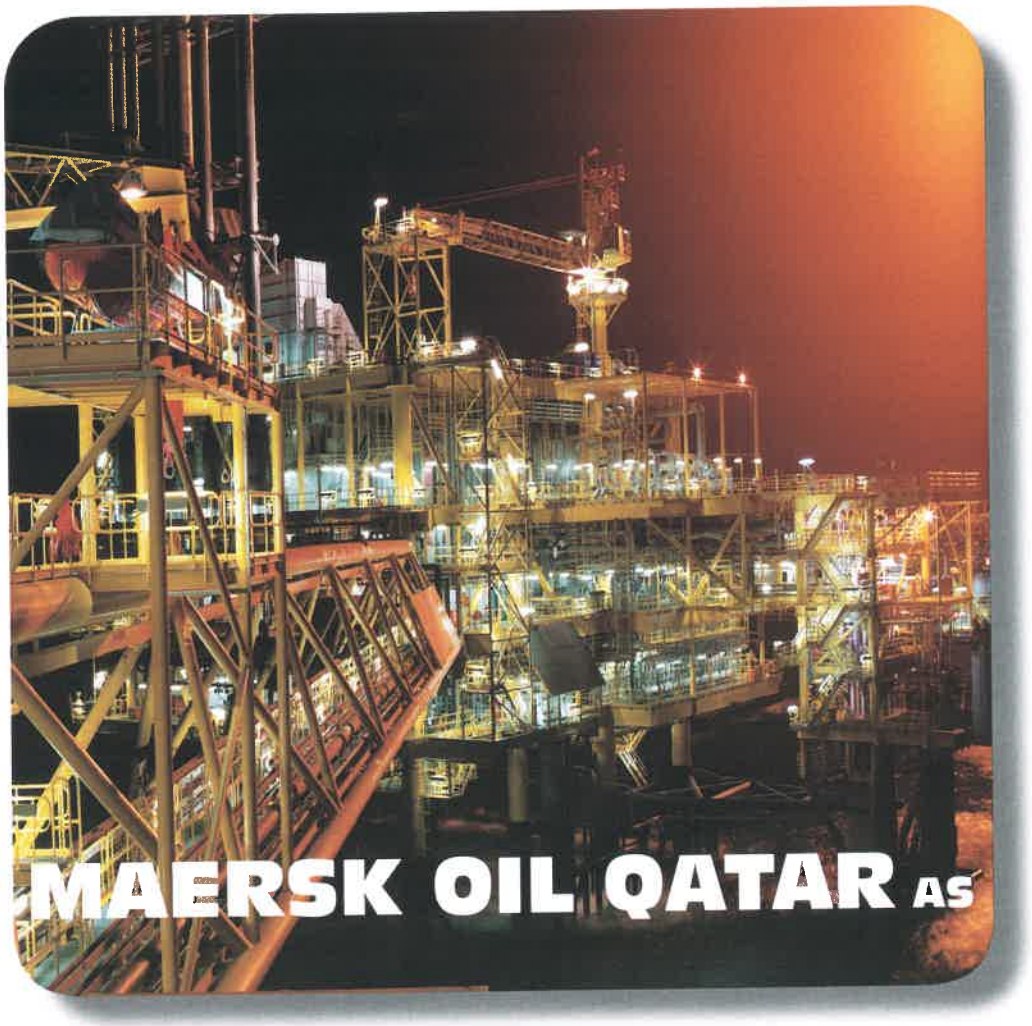
MAERSK OIL QATAR AS

Maersk Oil Qatar AS is a member of the A.P. Moller Group, and operates the Al Shaheen Field under an Exploration and Production Sharing agreement signed with QGPC in July 1992. The oil in that field is found at relatively low pressure in

several thin and tight layers covering a wide area. To exploit it, Maersk drilled seven long horizontal production wells, three of which at that time achieved world-record horizontal drainhole lengths. Production began in 1994, and a major development plan for the field was approved in 1996, consisting of 56 long horizontal wells from three surface locations about seven kilometres apart. Permanent surface facilities have been installed, and by 1998 production from the Al Shaheen field had risen steadily to an average of 100,000 barrels per day.

ARCO QATAR INC.

At the end of March this year, Atlantic Richfield (ARCO) announced its intended merger



Actively engaged in enhancing Qatar's Oil production as operator of Al Shaheen oilfield in Block 5 Offshore Qatar under an Exploration and Production Sharing Agreement with Qatar General Petroleum Corporation.

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with the newly formed BP-AMOCO (yet to receive final US approval). ARCO's subsidiary, Arco Qatar, has been represented in Qatar since 1997, when it became the operator of a consortium which grouped it with with Gulfstream Resources, British Gas, Wintershall AG and Preussag Energie. ARCO QATAR has been developing the Al Rayyan oilfield.

ELF

elf petroleum qatar

Elf Petroleum Qatar, together with Agip International, operates the Al Khaleej offshore filed under a PSA with QGPC. the existing nine wells currently have a production capacity of 22,000bpd. In June, Elf became the focus of a hostile takeover bid by Total Fina. If successful, the merger would make them the fourth largest oil and gas producer worldwide.

TOTAL

The French oil company, Total, has been represented in Qatar for over half a century, having been involved in the first oil discoveries in the Qatar Petroleum Company's Dukhan concession at the beginning of the 1940's. Still active on the peninsula, and now involved in the gas industry here, the company recently merged with Petrofina of Belgium. It is a move which is expected to make little difference to their operations here, since Petrofina had concentrated its interests in Europe, with no previous business in the Arabian Gulf.

MOBIL

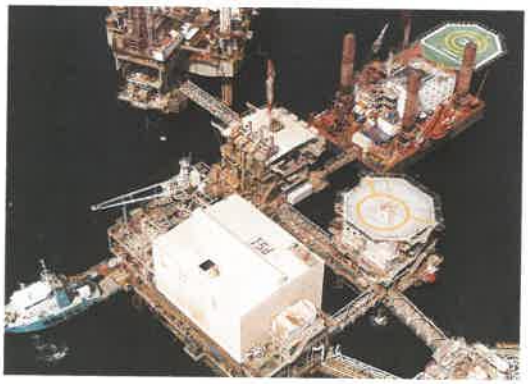
Mobil Oil Qatar Inc.

Mobil through Mobil Oil Qatar Inc. (MOQI), has been working with QGPC on two major liquefied natural gas projects - Qatargas and RasGas - to help maximise the potential of Qatar's North Field reserves. Mobil also has extensive experience in marketing LNG to Asia-Pacific customers in Japan, Korea and Taiwan - expertise it gained through 25 years of working with Pertamina in Indonesia. Mobil conducted state-of-the-art reservoir studies for QGPC, and is in a position to supply technical support across the full LNG value chain, including marine transportation, building and operating regasification plants and managing daily implementation of sales contracts.
Mobil has joined forces with QGPC to co-operate in creating a blueprint for optimising the future of the North Field, using Mobil's skills in integrated reservoir management.

OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM (OXY)

Occidental Petroleum of Qatar OXY

Occidental Petroleum assumed operation of the Idd El Shargi North Dome (ISND) through a DPSA in 1995; average daily field production in 1998 was in excess of 119,000



barrels per day and capacity is expected to reach 160,000bpd in the new millennium. OXY was awarded the south dome (ISSD) via a DSPA in 1997; production capacity is expected to reach 50,000bpd by the year 2001.

PENNZOIL QATAR INC.

PENNZOIL

Pennzoil operate the Block 8 North-East offshore field, under a DSPA signed with QGPC in 1994. Work has not so far progressed beyond the drilling of exploratory wells.

UNITED PETROLEUM DEVELOPMENT CO., COSMO OIL AND NISSHO IWAI CORPORATION

These three Japanese companies signed a 25 year DPSA with QGPC in 1997 for the South-East Block 1 Al Karkara Field and 'A' Structure; production commenced in 1999.

Hempel Paints (Qatar) W.L.L.

The Hempel factory in Qatar

In our modern world, the simple word 'paint' hardly seems sufficient to describe the wide range of protective and decorative coatings that help keep ships afloat, businesses going, homes and offices safe, and hospitals and medical centres both attractive and hygienic.

HEMPEL PAINTS (QATAR) W.L.L. offers local production of internationally respected products, reducing costs for the end-users in terms of importation and storage, and perhaps even more importantly, saving time. The company's reputation for quality and service make HEMPEL paints the paints of choice for oil, gas and petrochemical installations, water, electricity and power generation plants and civil structures.

Internationally, HEMPEL has over eighty years of experience; here in Qatar, the company is proud of the fact that it was issued with manufacturing licence Number 1 by what was then the Ministry of Industry and Agriculture in 1981, prior to the start-up of production on February 22nd 1982. Always keeping abreast of new developments and upgrading its management and administrative procedures alongside its technical development, HEMPEL PAINTS (QATAR) W.L.L. was presented with its ISO 9002 award in June 1998. In addition to regular 6-monthly inspections from the Bureau Veritas offices here, HEMPEL has its own in-house Bureau Veritas-trained auditors and the company has its own stringent standards and guidelines applied internationally.

HEMPEL produces marine paints; yacht paints; protective coatings for offshore rigs and platforms and onshore industrial structures; container coatings and decorative finishes. However, it was as a manufacturer of marine paints that the company first made its name. Until the beginning of the 20th Century, boatbuilders and repairer used to mix their marine paints on board. It was a fairly 'hit and miss' process as far as quality and colour were concerned. When HEMPEL came up with the idea of ready-made marine paint in 1915, it revolutionised the business.

By 1940, HEMPEL had seven factories, twenty seven appointed agents around the world and stocks in twenty two ports. In 1966, it established an agency and branch office in Qatar and then in 1981 a joint manufacturing venture was established, and the factory opened the following year. Thereby HEMPEL became the first name in paint and the first paint factory in Qatar. Now, in 1999, HEMPEL has 26 factories worldwide, with over 400 agencies and stock points.

HEMPEL is the market leader in protective coatings, manufacturing a full range of high quality epoxies, polyurethanes, zinc silicates, coal tar epoxies, alkyds, acrylics and other products. The coatings provide excellent protection for such diverse structures as refineries, chemical plants, pipelines, desalination plants, power plants, tanks and cranes amongst others. The product range includes a number of specialised coatings

A delegation from Ministry of Energy and Industry Department of Industrial Development visit Hempel

Hempel Paints (Qatar) production facility

including the HEMPADUR spray-fibre, an epoxy laminate compound, and HEMPADUR SPRAY-GUARD, which is epoxy cladding.

Altogether the factory here manufactures a range of about 250 different products - and many of those will then be offered in a range of colours. As important as the high specifications and the stringent quality control are, so is the HEMPEL service. However good the paint is, if it is incorrectly applied - or the wrong product is selected for the job - then the results will not last or the coating won't adequately perform its function. HEMPEL has the facilities to advise engineers about paints and coatings at the stage of design and specification, can offer guidelines on methods of application, drying times, maintenance etc., and will produce full reports for clients on the wear-and-tear on finished jobs, together with a maintenance shedule and recommendations. HEMPEL also run a series of technical seminars and training courses to teach engineers the correct selection, storage, use and application of the different paints and coatings.

Environmentally, HEMPEL is a concerned group, keeping a close eye on worldwide trends and remaining at the forefront of the business. Its extensive research facilities, scattered around the world, ensure that existing products are continually upgraded and new ones devised to match customer needs.

The factory here in Qatar brings in specialist raw materials from overseas, storing them and finished products in separate areas for both safety and quality considerations. HEMPEL

Hempel paints on display at international exhibition

stores finished product in controlled conditions, carefully monitoring quantities according to the requirements of the market to ensure no product deterioration. The advantage of having the factory here is that special orders and production runs enable the company to manufacture and release products as they are required.

The manufacturing process itself is tightly controlled. Internationally, HEMPEL supplies the formula for each of their products; before any production run, the formula card will be selected and a batch card generated which designates everything from the machine to the operator, and 'orders' the packaging - tins/lids/labels and cartons. Labels are actually printed specially for each batch. The machines are of varying capacities (from 200 to 3,500 litres) according not just to the size of the production run but also the nature of the product. From storage the raw materials are checked, measured, checked again and

Hempel paints protect oil rigs

premixed before dry materials are mixed with the 'vehicle' or liquid products. At each production stage, machine processing time is specified, and each operator has to follow very specific steps for processing and testing before moving on to the next stage.

The HEMPEL factory here in Qatar produces and markets around 30,000 tonnes of paint a year - that's more than a litre of HEMPEL paint for every minute of every day throughout the year!

Whilst the industrial paints and protective coatings are an important segment of the market here, Qatar is undergoing a mini construction boom in the civil sector, and decorative paints form an important part of the range. They too will offer protection - be it for wood, metal, concrete or plaster, in both plain and textured finishes.

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Emergency Medical Services

The crew of ALPHA 1

A number of changes and updates to Qatar's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) this year are expanding the scope and availability of what is a life-saving service in the country. Under the old system, EMS operated as a department of Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC), mandated to provide ambulance facilities in Doha and its immediate environs. The regional primary health care centres of the Ministry of Public Health had their own, less sophisticated ambulances, which responded to emergencies in other towns and rural areas - with EMS dispatching ambulances from Doha in support if they were available. However, what started out as a simple ambulance service for the city of Doha in the 1980's is now being turned into a sophisticated organisation which, it is hoped, will offer advanced life support facilities in emergency situations nationwide by the end of the year 2001. Eighteen new ambulances are already on order, with deliveries expected to start in October or November 1999.

Every year, the EMS Communications Centre receives more than 15,000 calls, of which some 12% are true emergencies - that is to say where life is in danger - that include incidences of cardiac arrest, respiratory arrest, or trauma caused by road accidents. The average response time for the delivery of basic life support in Doha and its immediate area is under 8 minutes - something which is already achieved in almost 80% of cases although the primary response goal is to meet it in 90% of incidents. Since 1996, data on call volume, response time and the nature and location of incidents has been collated on a 'numbered medic-unit' basis, relating it to a specific unit, in line with global EMS data-tracking. The resultant statistical data is then used for 'system status management' which allows EMS to determine peak times in call volume and areas of high demand, deploying and redeploying its ambulances and manpower to meet community needs.

EMS moved into new premises on the Rayyan Road, adjacent to Rumaillah Hospital, in early 1999 (funds for the building were donated by the Al Obaidly family) and the new facilities have provided the opportunity to upgrade the equipment and technology of the communications room, separate the administrative offices from the training centre, and even offer locker-room and recreational space to the staff on duty. The existing fleet of ambulances is being expanded - with 18 new units on order - and in May 1999, Alpha 1 was introduced to the fleet. On call 24 hours per day, it is an Advanced Life Support Unit, which

The communications room

EMS Staff

offers a full line of IV fluids, first line drugs, heart monitors with pacers, and defibrilators. The crews manning Alpha 1 all have at least fifteen years experience in dealing with critical patients, and have received at least one year's additional specialised training at HMC EMS Department, applying medicine in the street.

The EMS ambulance fleet currently consists of Alpha 1, plus Medics 2,3,4 and 5 (Medic 1 was replaced by Alpha 1), Tangos 1 and 2 and two MCI (major casualty incident) vehicles. The Director and Supervisor both have emergency response vehicles and are on 24 hour call, supporting the fleet. In addition, there are several support vehicles for the transportation of extra staff and equipment. The ultimate aim is to have all ambulances equipped and staffed to the level of Alpha 1, and as part of the training plan, HMC has liaised with specialised EMS training facilities in Europe, Canada and the United States. Already it has a Chapter of the European Resuscitation Council (for CPR training), and there will soon be a Chapter of the International Basic Trainer Life Support (BTLS) in Doha; both will provide fully certified local instructors and training directors.

Way back in 1992, what had been a basic ambulance service with just a driver, was upgraded to a basic life support service through the rapid training of staff in a classroom environment. A Competency Analysis Profile (CAPS) was completed for all staff - from Emergency Medical Responder - and training was organised at three different levels: Basic, Intermediate and Advanced Life Support (those qualified to administer Advanced Life Support having received full training as Paramedics). Two and a half years ago, the recruitment criteria were changed, and now more than 50% of staff start in the unit as degree-qualified nurses, doctors and technicians

Whilst all staff recruited to EMS have had prior experience of dealing with critical patients, EMS will, in the future, not only upgrade the training of experienced medical technicians to Paramedic within the department but be able to offer full training to those entering the profession for the first time.

In addition to dealing with accident, emergency and urgent cases, the ambulances are required for inter-facility transport of patients (for example from one hospital to another or to take patients home). The demand on ambulances is, therefore high - but straightforward. Transportation can, in many cases, be carried out using less sophisticated vehicles and less qualified staff.

EMS Training centre is always in use

There is a total staff of around 90 in EMS at the moment, which will eventually expand to about 140.

Company donations have recently added

three additional ambulances to the country's fleet. Alpha One was donated by the US company ARCO (Atlantic Richfield Oil and Gas Company) - in addition one ambulance from Abdullah Abdulghani and Brothers Company is to be operational in Al Wakrah, and the other (from Mobil) in Al Khor. In approximately two years time, there will be a regional hospital in Medinat Al Shamal, but the area will have a fully operational ambulance service well before then. An emergency/trauma/ambulance service is being established in Al Khor, and a service based in Kaaban covers the area between Kaaban town and approximately 20km north of Al Khor.

EMS has introduced a Medical Priority Dispatch System, so that the severity and complexity of each case can be assessed accurately prior to the dispatch of the ambulance, and each case can be accurately tracked right through the system. MPD also allows communications officers to give life-saving advice over the phone to callers while they are waiting for the ambulance. With appropriate training, operators can then work their way through a standardised set of questions and procedures to help callers facing anything from choking to burns, scalds, fractures, bleeding, or coronary problems until expert help arrives.

Before long, it is hoped that caller identification on 999 calls, coupled with use of the Electronic Placefinder System for the location of the caller, will enable dispatchers to send ambulances even in those instances where the caller is too distressed to give clear and concise details. A direct emergency line to EMS is also to be established, giving callers a second option to dialling 999.

In the meantime, EMS advise all families to keep a card by their home telephone with full, clear, details of the address, plus basic information about each person resident in the household - age, sex, medication they are taking and any long-term medical problems (for instance, diabetes) or allergies (whether food, environment or pharmaceutical). It is also essential that children are taught how to use the 999 system from a very early age; there are instances where they may be the only person available to make a call if a parent or guardian is taken suddenly ill!

For trauma patients, the first hour after an accident, known as the 'golden hour' can be crucial to their survival and recovery. Proper treatment received within that golden hour can literally make the difference between life and death. EMS can play a vital part in getting patients to hospital quickly and in stabilising the patient. But however much an EMS department strives to upgrade its ambulances, the abilities of its staff and paramedics and its response time, the service relies on callers giving clear, concise and accurate information so that they can reach the scene quickly and begin appropriate care. It is also essential that the general public keep access clear to the scenes of accidents and disasters so that emergency vehicles can approach and leave both quickly and safely.

Hamad Medical corporation receives around 3,000 Road Traffic Accident (RTA) victims each year. Over 200 deaths occur instantly, at the scene of the accident, on the way to HMC or in Accident & Emergency. The total number of accidents slightly declined after the introduction of radar, but the severity of cases has increased.

Every week, the Accident & Emergency Department simulates real-time trauma management cases and real-time simulated cardiac management cases involving specialists, team leaders, co-ordinators and nurses, EMS Paramedics and Technicians ensuring they all have clearly defined roles. The Corporation is also to start up the Middle East's first journal in Emergency Medicine.

But remember, to maximised the benefits of EMS, help EMS to help you!

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The one with the white forehead is most blessed

Just one look at the sheer magnificence of the pure bred Arabian horse and you can understand why this animal played such an important part in the lives of the Bedouin tribesmen. With its majestic stance, large eyes and rippling muscles, the alertness, strength and intelligence of the Aseel (an Arabic word meaning from the original, or purebred) is immediately apparent. These were the horses that carried messengers from camp to camp across vast areas of inhospitable terrain in times of battle, remaining surefooted in the velvet darkness of the desert nights, and were seemingly immune to the pangs of hunger and thirst.

The Bedouin were skilled horsemen and horse breeders, but there were also many legends and much folklore attached to the Arabian horses. The chestnut horses were thought to be the fastest, the black the most spirited, the ones with the white forehead the most blessed, and the bays the most enduring. Whatever their colour, and whether or not there was ever any truth to those stories, the pure-bred Arabians are all strong, courageous creatures, which have always been prized for their gentle nature.

The Aseel originates from the area of the Nejd, the central desert of what is now Saudi Arabia, and pure-bred Arabian horses scattered across the world all trace their ancestry back to those herds. Some written records, dating back as much as eight hundred years, show that the breeding and ownership of these horses was a sign of wealth and prestige, with one man owning as many as 3,000 horses. Nowadays, the pure bred Arabians are all registered, and bloodstock records can be called up from the computer. The Bedouin, however, with their oral culture, kept the lineage of each horse as a mental record, passing the information from one generation to the next, and only writing it down if the horse was to be sold at some distant market.

Much in the same way as current breeders, the Bedouin often retained certain rights over the foals produced by the mares they sold, and buying a prize horse was no easier then than it is now !

Whilst there are a number of stud farms around the world specializing in the Pure Arabian the animals may be bred with one of two distinct purposes in mind. As a race horse, the Pure-bred Arabian is known for its stamina. although in size it doesn't compare with the larger thoroughbred. It is also bred as a showhorse, in which case it will be assessed mainly according to certain physical characteristics such as a short head, slightly dished when viewed from the side; a wide throat latch; large prominent and low-set eyes; wide, delicately flared nostrils; a straight short back; a high tail; depth at the shoulders; straight balance from the shoulder to the leg (not backward sloping); fluidity of movement; and a bold trot.

Both Arabian showhorses and race horses are valued here, and the Race and Equestrian Club holds separate meetings and races for pure-bred Arabians, Thoroughbreds and mixed-blood horses in addition to the annual International Show for pure Arabians.

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A Day at the Races

Qatar's racing season runs from October to April, with a full calendar organised and administered by the Race and Equestrian Club. The grass course at Al Rayyan is well maintained and spectators of all nationalities attend the races, which are held every Wednesday afternoon. However, the Club wishes even more expatriates would support the race meetings!

Race days make fun outdoor days for the whole family, with commentaries in English, the chance to see the horses close-up in the Parade Ring, shaded stands, snacks and refreshments, and even special prizes for the spectators!

The Race and Equestrian Club also has its own stables next to the course. Proficient riders who can make a regular commitment are welcome to ride the horses there, but are also asked to groom them.

There are basically three categories of races: for overseas-bred Arab horses, for locally bred Arab horses, and for Thoroughbreds, and there are numerous local owners and breeders who have anything from one to scores of horses in training during any racing season. In addition, the Race and Equestrian Club hosts the annual Qatar International Arabian Horse Show each year, with the participation of top horses and owners from the Middle East and the rest of the world. The first of the shows here was held at the newly refurbished Club in 1992.

Three of the main stables here in Qatar belong to Their Highnesses the Emir, Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani (Al Shaqab Stud), The Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior, Sheikh Abdullah Bin Khalifa Al Thani (Umm Qarn Farms), and Deputy Premier, Sheikh Mohammed Bin Khalifa Al Thani (Al Shahania Farms). Their racing colours are familiar here in Qatar, and in some cases overseas, and Qatar also has some of the best showhorses in the world.

UMM QARN FARMS

The red and white silks of Umm Qarn Farms are well known in Qatar, France and the United Kingdom, and their racers are regularly taking the trophies and honours. The horses are all pure Arabians, and their successes on both sides of the English Channel have resulted in Sheikh Abdullah being named as leading owner in France and leading breeder in the UK, breeding the Horse of the Year in both France and England. Here in Qatar, Umm Qarn were the proud winners of H.H. the Emir's Sword and other major trophies once again last racing season, against stiff competition.

Umm Qarn is now well established amongst breeders, and is producing top-notch foals with elite bloodlines. There are some 70 horses here in Qatar, at the farm north of Doha, with another 100 in England; their foals are always in great demand at the annual sales. Whilst Umm Qarn's main UK operations are in Dormansland village next door to Lingfield, they also lease a yard in Newmarket from

world-famous jockey and trainer, Lester Piggott. The breeding farm was established in England about five years ago, whilst the Qatar stables have been running for about ten years.

The air-conditioned stables here are located in beautiful surroundings on a site just south of Al Khor which boasts its own dirt and grass race tracks, hot-walkers, treadmills and a swimming pool for the horses. They even have their own 'sunbed' to treat the odd aches and pains, and of course Umm Qarn's farrier deals with all the normal and specialised shoes the horses require for training and racing.

The tree-lined grass paddocks with their wild flowers are reminiscent of fields in Europe and contrast dramatically with the stony desert surrounding the farm. With the lowing of cows, the birdsong, and the humming of bees entering the nearby hives, its like entering a whole new world!

The feed for the horses is brought in from Australia and Europe; Umm Qarn has its own vet, and laboratory facilities for dealing with any tests that need to be carried out are on-site. Most of the breeding is carried out in the United Kingdom, with the stallions standing at stud there; however semen is shipped to Qatar for the artificial insemination of mares here, and a number of healthy foals are now being reared to enter training and compete against the other horses in the stables. Semen is also sent to Dubai.

Umm Qarn's farm here is managed by Val Bunting, who has been involved in all aspects

of the operation from the original purchase of young horses and brood mares to the current breeding and training. During the summer racing season, her time is spent in the UK , where Umm Qarn had two home-bred winners in the first meeting this year.

AL SHAHANIA FARMS, spread over 300 acres in the middle of the Qatari peninsula and close to the town of the same name, is managed by American Deryle Duncan, who also trains the horses there; his wife Cathy is the vet. The pure Arabians currently stabled there include

stallions, mares and foals, since the farm is engaged in a major breeding programme in this country. Al Shahania Farms also races in the UK, France and the United States and its horses are major prize winners both in Qatar and abroad.

When H.H. Sheikh Mohammed founded Al Shahania Farms in the 1980s, it was an emotional and spiritual commitment to breed, race and show the pure-bred Arab horse in Qatar. Initially, his interest was predominantly in show horses, but over time the emphasis has moved towards racing - and that is now

conditions here rather than in the more temperate zones of Europe, but Al Shahania's policy has been proven in its results.

the main focus of the breeding programme. Many were sceptical that top race horses could be bred in the extreme climatic

Al Shahania Farms has recently added a new barn to the facilities, which also include a swimming pool, treadmills and hot walkers. As the temperature increases through the racing season here, training takes place earlier and earlier in the morning, and the pool adds substantially to the available training time.

Al Shahania's breeding programme followed an underlying rationale of crossing French lines (for their endurance in the 2,400 metre races) with US lines for pure speed to come up with the ultimate racehorse. In addition to its success on the race track, Al Shahania Farms has also chalked up significant success in endurance and marathon racing.

AL SHAQAB STUD, on the edge of Al Rayyan, is home to some of the most beautiful and highly prized Arab showhorses in the world, and whilst horses are bred there mainly for beauty and show qualities, they have also produced a number of top Arab race horses, including marathon and endurance horses.

Like the other major stables here, Al Shaqab is a haven of peace and tranquility on the edge of town. Green paddocks complement the airconditioned stables, and variable-tilt treadmills allow the horses to be worked more - or less - strenuously, according to their training needs and with emphasis on different muscle groups.

New riding-school facilities have recently been completed, the natural stone walls resembling those of a fortress. Guided tours of the Stud are provided for visiting dignitaries and conference delegates, and Al Shaqab also hosted a fund-raising event organised by the Parent Teacher Association of Qatar Academy.

Qatar Rotomould

Gone are the days when water storage tanks came only in plain white, and the only shapes were rectangular or horizontal 'barrels'. Qatar Rotomould, located in Doha's industrial area on the Salwa Road, offers a variety of practical yet intriguingly shaped tanks that serve their function without being space-taking eyesores! They actually produce 21 different tanks ranging in size from 100 - 5,000 gallons capacity, and in shape from the standard plain rectangular, horizontal vertical or spherical, to crenellated turrets fit for a castle. The colours? Well, what would you like - white, blue, green, red, black, grey, or speckled? The range can be 'customised' for colour, and for reasonably sized orders, special (non-standard) items can be made. Amongst other customers, Qatar Rotomould currently supply water tanks to the country's armed forces, Qatargas, QGPC, Qatar Academy, various school projects, GHQ maintenance, Qatar Race and Equestrian Club, Ministry of the Interior and Hamad Hospital, to name only a few.

Using a process known as rotomoulding, in which the raw materials are ground, coloured and fed into the moulds as powder before being rotated and 'cooked' in huge ovens, the factory produces an amazingly wide range of products - and is soon to venture into even more applications. Already, Qatar Rotomould produce - in addition to water tanks - road barriers that are currently used by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Agriculture and will also be used in Ras Laffan and Mesaieed - they look like shaped concrete blocks in red and white but are really lock-together barriers with flashing yellow lights to indicate road closures, roadworks etc.. They are much safer than using steel, and less likely to damage passing vehicles; 'Wheelie-bins' (the green 210 litre garbage bins on wheels). Decorative lamp posts suitable for residential compounds, parks, etc. Large planters and decorative pots. Gaily coloured modular tunnels, spiral slides and talk tubes for children's indoor activity playgrounds

The process, in fact, is ideally suited for the production of anything plastic that's large and hollow. Qatar Rotomould is the only factory in the country to offer rotomoulding techniques, and everything is produced 'in house.' The huge moulds are made from steel, stainless steel or aluminium, and the ovens come in two kinds - those that rotate the moulds through 360 degrees in both directions, and the intriguingly named 'rock-and-roll' versions, which revolve 360 degrees on one axis and 240 on another. The coloured powder is fed into the moulds, together with several additives - one of which is titanium to make the resultant plastic opaque.

Gravitational force continually pulls the melting powder to the bottom of the moulds as they turn; once the 'cooking' process has finished and the moulds cool down, the plastic shrinks by one or two percent and draws away from the metal. There are stringent quality controls in the factory with each tank inspected after production and again after cleaning and before dispatch.

The raw materials are currently imported from SABIC in Saudi Arabia, although for some work, they can use the low density polyethylene (LDPE) produced here in Qatar by QAPCO. For most of the products though, Qatar Rotomould needs linear low density polyethylene, which is not yet produced here - but could be one of the products from the new QAPCO/Phillips joint venture, Q-Chem. QAPCO do keep the factory informed of any new products - and also have assisted with the testing of some of Qatar Rotomould's new tanks.

Just three decades ago, all the water tanks in Qatar were galvanised. When they were banned by law, fibreglass tanks became the norm. Now, we have these new plastic tanks which are safe, healthy and durable, used in most other parts of the world, and are approved by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Agriculture, the Ministry of Electricity and Water and the Ministry of Public Health. Most of Qatar Rotomould's tanks are made of three layers - the central one of which is black to stop light penetrating the tank - thus restricting the development of algae in the water. You may have seen some specially produced translucent tanks in showrooms around town - lit at night by internal lights. Qatar Rotomould have certainly given a new meaning to the words 'plastic products'!

There is a showroom at the factory, and the tanks are marketed in Qatar by Al Misnad Trading.

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Palm Tree Island

All the beauty of a desert island, but just five minutes away from the shore! That's Palm Tree Island (Jezirat Al Nakheel), nestling in the glistening waters of Doha Bay. The island, owned by Qatar National Hotels Company, offers a delightful afternoon and evening out for all ages.

A regular dhow service runs between the Corniche and the island, so you don't have to have a boat of your own. And the restaurant and cafeteria provide everything from light refreshments to a gourmet meal, so you won't have to take a picnic basket!

During the day, the landscaped gardens of the island make a pleasant retreat from the bustle of the town, whilst in the evening there's the added attraction of a complete view of the illuminated city at night. A traditional Arabic shisha nestles on the water's edge, making a popular meeting place, and visitors to the restaurant can either eat indoors or enjoy the spectacular view and the cool evening breezes dining by the shore. Barbeques are popular in the cooler weather, and a number of companies elect to take advantage of the island's facilities for corporate events - when the whole or part of the island can be closed to the general public. Palm Tree Island can cater for private parties, and open air concerts are often staged during holiday periods.

Children find plenty to do on the island - there are ride-on games, bumper boats in a small pond, a splash-pool to play in when they want to cool off - and of course there's the beach. Soft sand leads into shallow waters, making the beach safe for children, whilst the deeper water further out appeals to strong swimmers. There are changing facilities and showers on the island, and the beach is well equipped with cabanas and sun loungers.

The island is open from 12 noon to 10pm daily. The dhow service runs from the jetty on the Corniche near to the Coffee Pot monument. The last boat to the island goes at 8.30pm.

For further details call: 869151, 865178, Fax: 865202

Doha and Munich Linking Qatar to over 200 destinations worldwide

Bernhard Rudo, in charge of operations in Munich

Doha is the hub of operations for Qatar Airways, serving as a transit point for passengers between Europe and North Africa, the Gulf, the Indian Sub-continent and the Far East. The airline is continually adding to its list of destinations - either independently or in code-sharing agreements with other airlines - and in doing so is helping its passengers access other major airline hubs. One of the most popular routes for Qatar Airways passengers flying to Europe and the Americas is proving to be through Munich, in co-operation with Lufthansa. The existing two flights a week between the two cities (Mondays and Fridays) will be increased to three from November 3rd 1999, with the introduction of a Wednesday flight. Munich is therefore a major European addition to the daily flights between Doha and London.

Having recorded a staggering 19.3 million passenger movements in 1998, Munich is now ninth in the ranking of European airports - and offers transit passengers links to 98 airlines with regular services to 197 destinations in 63 countries!

Whilst Qatar Airways onward passengers also have a choice of UK destinations with Lufthansa (London, Manchester and Birmingham), many will be flying to Munich with plans for business

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or holidays in Germany and Austria. Both countries are well established tourist destinations with spectacular scenery and a wealth of history and culture. They also have growing appeal as destinations for those seeking medical treatment - with a number of specialised clinics being developed, catering almost exclusively to the needs of overseas visitors. Munich is just half an hour's drive from the lakes of Southern Germany and a mere four hours by car from Venice in Italy or Vienna in Austria. Whilst there are air connections, many people choose to make the drive part of their holidays, seeing as much of Europe as they can on their way.

Munich airport is very 'user-friendly'. It's clean, bright, well signposted, and run with typical German efficiency. There are shops and cafeterias, restaurants and a Post Office - and the airport has its own medical facility. A new sorting system for baggage in transit guarantees travellers a minimum connection time of just 35 minutes - one of the shortest in Europe. As further proof of Munich's growing international standing, it was chosen to host the world's largest airport trade show in September, dedicated to airport technology and services.

Qatar Airways operates the Doha-Munich route using its wide-body Airbus A300-600R aircraft, now refurbished and offering fully-reclining seats to its First Class passengers, and seats with a 50"+ pitch to its Business Class passengers. The new 'Hospitality in the air' corporate motto for Qatar Airways reflects its commitment to passenger comfort, and the airline has been named as the airline of choice by business passengers flying in and out of Qatar.

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The Alphabet of Qatar

We don't have the space to take you on a full journey through Qatar's rich traditions and culture, but we can give you a A-Z of some of the sights and sounds you may come across whilst you are here!

A

One of the traditional dances that you will undoubtedly see is the "ARDHA", performed particularly at times of celebration such as weddings and during the Eid festivals. The men, bearing golden swords, form in straight lines,

dancing and singing. The lyrics are of horsemanship, chivalry and strength. Traditional Gulf ARCHITECTURE features small, shuttered windows, (originally built at ground level to provide air movement); wind-towers which provided natural air-conditioning; collonaded 'lewan' or covered verandahs; and screening made of carved wood called 'mushrabiyah'

'AOUD' or AGAR WOOD is placed in incense burners to produce a sweet-smelling smoke that is used to perfume newly laundered garments. It can be bought in the souq and there are different grade - according to the amount of resin in the wood. It is sold by weight, in small pieces, and the most expensive kind is shiny, silky to the touch and rich in colour.

B

The general name given to different kinds of incense is 'BOKHUR', and the term is particularly used to describe the small brown balls made from a mixture of agar wood, white musk, sandalwood oil, ambergris, mystica and rose-oil. Remember the wind-towers? They are called 'BADGHIR'. While you are in Qatar, you should pay a visit to the gold market and see the exquisite examples of BRIDAL JEWELLERY. Huge solid gold necklaces, bangles, rings and ear-rings, given to the bride on her wedding day. There are also hair ornaments and head-coverings, belts, and bracelets joined to rings. The short, shiny, indigo-coloured mask worn

mainly by older Qatari women, is called 'BATTULA', and the soft chest-length veil the 'BURQAA'. Visit the souqs and watch the embroiderers make the beautiful black head-covers decorated in gold and silver, called 'BUKHNOQ', worn by the young girls, and the black or brown golden-edged fine cloaks or 'BISHT' worn by the men on special occasions. A trip to one of the museums will give you an insight into the life of the traditional BEDOUIN, or nomads, of the region, and the beautiful black brown and cream striped tents in which they lived called 'BAYT AL SHA'R' ('house of hair').

C

CAMELS were important to the Bedouin both as transportation for themselves and as pack animals - in addition to which they provided milk, meat, and camel hair for weaving cloaks. You will often see camels roaming the desert, and can watch them race at Al Shahaniyah race track. Sample traditional Arabic COFFEE, made from lightly roasted green beans and cardamom, served in small handle-less cups.

D

Traditional brass or copper coffee pots are called 'DALLAH. They have long curving spouts, a bulbous base, and a domed lid. 'DANA' is the name given to a perfect, unblemished, spherical pearl. 'AL DAZZAH' is the name given to the bridal chests, the gifts given to the bride as part of her DOWRY, and which include clothes, perfume, household goods and provisions. DATE palms grow along many of Doha's highways, and a new date palm plantation is being established for date production and export. Together with a glass of water, dates are used to break the fast at sunset during the Holy Month of Ramadhan. D also stands for the DESERT of Qatar; the flat limestone plateaux in the centre of the country is known as Barr Qatar. But not all the desert is flat and stony. There are the beautiful Barchan sand DUNES forming a dune field to the south of Mesaieed around the Inland Sea. The DHOWS are the traditional wooden boats used for pearling, fishing or trading. There are several different kinds, each with a different name.

E

EMBROIDERY features not just on the ladies' clothes, but on some of the covers for the floor cushions used in the majlis or reception room of the traditional Qatari house. Gold and silver thread are used in addition to coloured cottons and silks. All women learned to embroider their own clothes, and whilst now you will see male embroiderers in the souq, traditionally only women could embroider the cuffs of the baggy trousers worn under their dresses and called 'sirwal'. All the embroidery patterns had their own names, and dress styles were often named according to the embroidery.

F

FALCONRY is an art, not just a sport, and the Arab falconer is renowned around the world. The two types of falcon found in Qatar are the Saker and Peregrine (Hurr and Shaheen); prior to the hunting season (which runs from October to March) you can see the falconers carrying their

birds as part of the training. You may even see them hand-carried by their owners on intra-Gulf flights! These valuable birds of prey can cost anything from QR500 to QR300,000, and there are specialised shops selling falconry equipment as well as a falconry market where birds are on sale. There are special terms used for the falcons, depending on their type, age, size and colour. A study in its own right! F also stands for the 'FAQAA', the truffles which can be found in the desert during spring. They are scarce, considered a great delicacy, and can sell for up to QR1,000 per kilo! The desert is also full of marine FOSSILS, a reminder of the time the peninsula was under the sea.

G

Many of the buildings feature GYPSUM carving ('jus'), and some of the local artists are now producing carvings as wall hangings, framed like pictures. Walk along the Corniche and you can see the fishing boats loaded with the domed traps known as 'GARGOOR'. On occasions, you will see the fishermen making these traps, using wire mesh and steel rods. They used to be made from palm fronds.

H

On special occasions, the ladies will decorate their hands and feet with intricate designs traced in HENNA paste. HAZRA are fishing traps made from nets stretched between upright poles, they are inter-tidal traps with narrow entrances.

I

INCENSE BURNERS, ('medkhan' in Arabic) are traditionally made from wood or brass. You can find ceramic burners, even electrically heated ones!

J

JEBEL JASSASSIYEH is one of the places to visit to see old rock carvings of unknown age. Some were probably game boards, others show boats. There are several such sites in the country, some carvings representing men and animals.

K

Visit KHOR AL UDAID, (Inland Sea), AL KOOT museum in Doha and AL KHOR (more details in Marhaba's "What To See" section).,

L

'LEWA' or 'LAIWA' music is a traditional form of music and dance performed purely for pleasure. It originated on the east coast of Africa. 'LULUA' are the pearls found in the oysters of the Gulf. They were sorted according to size by passing them through a set of seven sieves, each with a different size of hole.

M

The town of MESAIEED, south of Doha, has a major industrial area, but it also has beautiful beaches and an hotel, the Sealine Beach Resort (details in our "What to See" section).

The MANGROVES attract many species of bird. MASKAR are the stone walls you see in shallow water along the coast and which are in fact inter-tidal fishing traps. MARASH are the elegant, long-necked brass or silver rosewater shakers, used to dispense the sweet-smelling liquid over the hands of visitors.

N

The beautiful THOBE AL NASHAL, worn by ladies on special occasions, is made of the finest silk or chiffon, heavily embroidered in gold or silver. It is a wide rectangular over-garment which falls in delicate folds when worn. The back part of the 'sleeve' is taken across the back and up over the head to cover the hair. Favourite colours are red and purple. Green was the traditional colour for weddings.

O

The beautiful white ORYX is possibly the animal which inspired the legend of the unicorn. Viewed from the side, its two straight horns appear as one. Once roaming freely on the Arabian peninsula, this beautiful animal was almost hunted into extinction. Qatar has several protected herds which are growing in size. The OUD is a musical instrument, similar to the European lute. Together with percussion instruments, it is one of the favourite instruments of Qatari musicians.

P

The PEARL DIVERS used to use stone weights tied to their ankles to reach the sea bed. The only equipment they used was a nose-clip made from turtle shell and protective coverings for their fingertips. Their 'lifeline' was a rope to the surface, and they carried a small basket in which to collect the oysters.

Philatelists may enjoy a visit to the Philatelic Bureau in the General Post Office, or the POST OFFICE MUSEUM in the souq (details in our "What to See section)

Q

Qatari hospitality is renowned; you will be made welcome wherever you go, and the history, traditions and culture of the country will be explained to you willingly if you ask! There used to be a number of very skilled boat builders in Qatar, known as QALLAF or QALLALIEF. Many of the same old hand-tools are still used today: planes, adzes, axes and simple rope-operated drills.

R

The ROWDHAT are the fertile depressions in the desert where plant life abounds. Despite the low rainfall, seeds can lie dormant and germinate at the rate of 1800 per square metre. AL RUWAIS is a traditional village in the north of Qatar; RAS LAFFAN about 80km north of Doha is the centre of Qatar's thriving new gas industry.

S

SADU is the word given both to weaving in general and to a particular pattern in weaving. The Bedouin women used hair from goats, sheep and camels to weave tents, rugs, cushions

and clothes. They carded and spun the wool, dyed it and then wove it on simple horizontal looms which were easy to dismantle, pack and reassemble as demanded by their nomadic life.

T

The TAMBOOR is just one of the different kinds of drums used in Qatari music. Percussion instruments play a very important role, as does the simplest form of percussion - clapping.

U

UMM means mother in Arabic, and many of the Qatari women will be known not by their own names but as, for example, Umm Ahmed (Ahmed's mother), taking the name of their oldest son. The word also figures in a number of place names. One of the most popular dessert dishes is a creamy but substantial pudding known as Umm Ali.

V

Not an easy letter to talk about, but if you go snorkelling or scuba diving, you will inevitably come across the VARIEGATED colours of the reef fish. The VARIETY of marine life in the Gulf is quite astonishing.

W

The old fishing village of AL WAKRA has grown into a thriving small town just south of Doha. (Check our "What To See" section).

X

XANTHIUS is one of the annual herbs which can be found growing in the desert. It has small ovoid fruits with hooked spines. Many of the plants found in the desert were used for medicinal purposes by the Bedouin.

Y

One of the amazing desert plants, emerging after the rains, is the 'desert hyacinth', a sturdy YELLOW florescence which, as its name implies, resembles the hyacinth. Its foliage is almost non-existent. Yellow is a dominant colour amongst the desert flowers. But, as painters will discover, the sands of the desert aren't yellow at all! Watch the sunrise or sunset over the dunes, and you will see every colour from beige, gold and brown to orange, grey and purple!

Z

We finally come to the letter 'Z', and the old city of AL ZUBARAH, which was once the main settlement on the peninsula (Turn to Marhaba's "What to See").

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Education in Qatar

The new 'Education" section in Marhaba magazine is being introduced for the first time in this edition, but we would like it to become a regular feature, updated in each of our future publications. Through it, we aim to give you insight into what is available in Qatar, and to whom. The section has been created in response to requests from readers, and we hope to develop it in a way which best satisfies your needs. It is a huge topic, and one which is of primary importance to any family with young school-goers or teenagers facing the dilemma of what to do when their secondary education is completed. We also hope to offer some pointers for adults seeking to expand their knowledge and qualifications.

We can't supply you with an exhaustive study, but we hope to give you a few pointers - at least in the direction of those who have information! What we are not doing is recommending any one form of education, or any particular institution, over another. Not all schools, colleges, or institutes of education, training and development in the country will be listed here. That does not mean that we especially recommend those listed or that we consider the others in any way unsuitable.

THE BACKGROUND TO STATE AND PRIVATE EDUCATION

Qatar is well aware of the importance of sound, well-developed and up-to-date educational programmes in preparing new generations to take on responsibilities in the State's burgeoning economy and, eventually, to reduce its reliance on expatriates. It is a subject which has been highlighted on numerous occasions in speeches by His Highness the Emir, Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, by his wife Her Highness Sheikha Mozeh Bint Nasser Al Misnad, by the Minister and Undersecretaries at the Ministry of Education and Higher Education and by business leaders.

At the beginning of the 20th Century, it was the religious leaders in Qatar who taught children to read and write and to deal with elementary mathematics. The children studied in small groups, with the main emphasis on religious teachings and studies of the Holy Qur'an. Separate classes were held for girls and whilst segregation still characterises Qatari schools, equal opportunities are offered to both boys and girls through parallel facilities at all levels, with just a limited number of university courses restricted to the men's campus (a situation likely to change as more laboratory and workshop facilities are built).

Secondary and tertiary education are relatively new in Qatar. Secondary education was first introduced in the country in 1953 (prior to

which Qatari boys studied abroad), and Qatar University opened its doors in 1973.

The State education sector in Qatar is well developed. However, at primary, intermediate and secondary levels it is only open to Qatari students or those from other Arab countries which don't have their own community schools here. Whilst tuition has traditionally been provided free of charge in the State sector, families have been expected to pay for books and for transportation if students use the door-to-door bus service. There have. however, been proposals under consideration to introduce nominal fees - perhaps in the range of around QR1,000 per year - to reduce the financial burden on the government.

For a variety of reasons, some Qataris and many expatriates choose to send their children to private schools, However Qatari families can only do so with the prior consent of the Ministry of Education. Because of the restrictions on eligibility for the State system, because their children don't speak Arabic, or because they want their children to study under the education system of their home country, many expatriates have no option but to use the private sector.

The choice of institutions is gradually expanding, however the cost of private education is relatively high - particularly in relation to average salaries - and only a handful of the schools are non-profit making 'community' ventures backed by embassies. (Nevertheless, fees at schools following the same basic curriculum are often very much on a par, regardless of the status of the school). Whilst it used to be commonplace for employers to at least contribute to the cost of education for their employees' children (sometimes covering the costs completely) fewer expatriates are now receiving that benefit and government or semi government institutions do not offer it to Qataris at all.

Most of the large communities have their own schools - and there are now private schools following the full (or modified) national curricula of the United Kingdom; the USA; France; Norway; Japan; the Philippines; India; Pakistan; Bangladesh; Iran; Lebanon; Egypt etc. Fairly logically, most started with kindergarten and primary classes; as the first batch of students moved up, so higher classes were added, but not all those schools - particularly within the smaller communities - offer education through to the end of secondary (pre-university) level. However, year by year more schools are opening, the choice is widening, and competition is getting stiffer.

LAWS GOVERNING PRIVATE EDUCATION

All private schools have to be registered with, and approved by, the Ministry of Education. In July 1999, the government amended some provisions of the 1980 law governing private education - which included strict guidelines covering the space that must be available both inside and outdoors on a 'per student' basis, and stipulated that the schools are expected to provide the ministry with full information on the curriculum and teaching staff - including changes- and on examination results. Fee increases must be approved by the ministry before they can be implemented, and the ministry also approves all textbooks used by the schools or put in the school libraries.

Community schools are expected to have parent representation on the Board of Governors; schools must have ministry approval for any private or corporate donations, and they must also seek clearance for any public events and fund raising activities such as bazaars held by the schools or their PTA's on or off school premises. Full details of the provisions of the law are available from the Ministry of Education and Higher Education Private Schools Department.

DIPLOMAS AND DEGREES

Qatar University accepts a number of expatriate students, but places are in great demand and are really only open to those who have followed the state system and who speak Arabic. Shaqab College of Design Arts (S-CODA) offers girls the opportunity to study to degree level locally, through courses designed and administered by

the University of Virginia (USA). Undergraduate courses administered by one of the Egyptian universities are also available locally, and some UK, North American and Asian universities and colleges offer courses in conjunction with local institutions in Qatar.

DISTANCE LEARNING

Not all students have the self-discipline to study on their own, but for those who do, distance learning can be a viable and cost effective option. It provides the opportunity to study in free time, and a 250 or 300 hour GCE A level course can, for example, be completed comfortably in five months instead of the two years registration which may be required in a full time institution and is significantly cheaper! A whole variety of qualifications are available through correspondence courses, but one point to check is whether you can sit exams locally. You can study for anything anywhere, but if you're not careful, you may find there are either no overseas examination facilities or that there is a curriculum difference between 'home' and overseas courses, particularly if you're studying for a UK qualification. Embassies and Cultural Centres are good sources of information for names and addresses of correspondence schools.

FINDING OUT ABOUT OVERSEAS EDUCATIONAL ESTABLISHMENTS

For those wishing to study abroad, embassies and cultural centres are, once again, good sources of information on available institutions. Secondary Schools often have visiting delegations marketing overseas schools and colleges, there are frequent adverts in the local press, plus several annual exhibitions relating to education, training and development. The American Cultural Centre and the British Council both have full time educational advisors for students wishing to study in the USA or the UK. They can advise on university applications, and the British Council have available the multiple-application UCAS forms. The French Cultural Centre also has an education department. There is also a wealth of global information available on the Internet, often including application forms.

LOCALLY RUN TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT COURSES

A number of language courses are available locally if you want to study English French, Arabic etc., and numerous training institutions offer IT-related courses, sometimes in conjunction with overseas institutions.

SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

Recognising the time and cost involved in sending delegates overseas for seminars and workshops, an increasing number of organisations are bringing trainers and discussion leaders to Qatar, to run both general and specialised courses, covering everything from creative thinking to international standards. Major corporations usually receive advance invitations to participate by mail, and the open events are advertised in the local press.

School Celebrations

The **M.E.S. Indian School in Doha** is celebrating its silver anniversary this year, and to mark the occasion the school has a special jubilee logo, flag and slogan. The logo, with MES at the centre of a pentagon, symbolises the period from the school's foundation in 1974 to the present and - together with the slogan 'Men made MES - MES makes man' - also looks to the future and the new generations which will pass through in the years to come. The logo was designed by two teachers in the school's Department of Fine Arts and Culture, and the slogan by a Class XI pupil.

The school, built on 19 acres of land in the AbuHamour district of Doha donated by His Highness the Emir, is affiliated to the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) in Delhi and recognised by Qatar's Ministry of Education. In addition to the CBSE stream it prepares pupils for the Kerala S.S.L.C. and Kerala Higher Secondary (Plus 2) Examinations. It has two hundred and fifty teachers and five thousand two hundred pupils on its rolls, from Kindergarten to Class XII, with separate wings for the boys and girls.

The year-long anniversary celebrations conclude in November, but one of the most significant events has been the completion of a Silver Jubilee block, with 45 classrooms, language rooms, activity rooms and an infirmary with a qualified nurse in attendance, a hall, auditorium, and a central library - the reference section of which will be open to families of students as well as the pupils themselves. there are also further expansion plans under discussion.

MES always receives a significant number of visiting dignitaries throughout each academic year, along with poets, writers, artists and musicians. It hosts workshops and seminars for teachers, students and parents, and as part of the Jubilee Celebrations is hosting a workshop exclusively for women in October on "Caring Mothers"

The **Doha English Speaking School (DESS)** is meanwhile celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. The school, which follows the British National Curriculum for England and Wales, was opened by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II of Britain when she visited Doha in February 1979, and caters for some 600 children from the ages of 3 (nursery) through Class 1 to Class 6 at the age of about 11. In fact, it grew out of the English Speaking Primary School that was founded way back in 1971. As demand for places grew, a second school was established in temporary premises in 1976, moving onto the present site when the - then much smaller - campus was completed. Subsequently, the 'old' school became the English Speaking Infants' School, and the present site the English Speaking Junior School. The two weren't combined until 1985, when they finally took the DESS name.

Since the early days, numerous new facilities have been added, including a grass sports field, adventure playground, a second library, and a new multi-purpose hall. The latest addition is a new specialised Information & Communications Technology Suite. It contains 25 PCs, sufficient for the members of a complete class, with its teacher, to each work at their own machines.

The anniversary year has been one of many celebrations, and a very happy period in the school's history! (See the DESS advert in this section for more information on the school)

Centre Culturel Français

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Doha, Qatar

- **French Courses - Arabic Courses (all levels)**
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- **Cultural events**
- **Information Centre about France (tourism & studies)**

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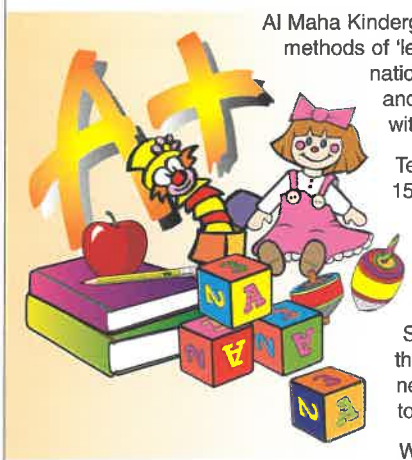
ALMAHA KINDERGARTEN



Al Maha Kindergarten, in the Mamoura area of Doha, offers the most up-to-date methods of 'learning through play' for English-speaking students of all nationalities. The brand new premises have been equipped with safety and durability in mind and the kindergarten is run by a professional, with the support of first-language-English teachers and assistants.

Term dates are: September 18th to December 22nd 1999; January 15th to April 12th 2000; and April 29th to June 28th 2000. There is a one week half-term break in each term, and the school is open from 7.30 am to 12.30 pm, although extended hours are available by prior arrangement.

Prior to the first term, the school will have an 'Open Week' from September 12th to 15th, during which parents and children can visit the premises and meet members of staff. During the academic year, new students and their families are welcome to make arrangements to visit the school prior to registration.

We welcome your children into our world of learning!

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ALMAHA

AL MAHA KINDERGARTEN

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www.gssgroup.com/kg.htm

French Cultural Centre

The French Cultural Centre (CCF) in Doha was officially founded in 1989, and moved to new premises on Al Muntazeh Street in the Autumn of 1997. It thus celebrates this year its 10th Anniversary in Qatar - 10 years of enriching the cultural scene with its unique French blend of activities and flair!

The CCF is equipped with a 'Mediatheque', a lending library of videos and books as well as a reference library; in addition, visitors can watch the French station TV5 via cable TV in the lounge. As far as books are concerned, there are over 8,000 titlescovering art, history, geography, literature, and the cinema. In fact you can find books on just about every subject in the libraries! Adults can access the Internet at the CCF which has its own site on www.qatar.net.qa/ambadoha. French language newspapers and magazines are also available in the library - which has a special children's section.

The Resource Centre also has information available for those wishing to study in France, or to visit the country as tourists. The CCF can help those wishing to study the French language either here or in France. It has list of language schools in France, and runs courses here at beginner, intermediate and advanced level with a choice of mixed or ladies-only classes. About 500 students a year attend classes here, and class sizes rarely exceed 10.

The CCF also runs Arabic language courses.

There is a wide range of activities: Concerts, La Fête de la Musique, Lectures (usually in English) and Film Festivals. The CCF runs a Cinema Club at the Hotel Sofitel, screening French language films most Wednesdays at 8 pm. The films, which have made cinema history in France, usually have Arabic subtitles. Call the CCF on Tel: 671037 or 674069.

Exhibitions mounted at the CCF throughout the year mark special anniversaries or notable events in French history and frequent art exhibitions display the works of Qatari painters and expatriate artists resident in Qatar. Previous exhibitions have covered such aspects as painting, design, etchings, engravings, drawing and sculpture.

The CCF is the heart of the Francophone community in Qatar but stresses it is open to all. It welcomes all those who would like information on France, French language, French events here or abroad, subscribe to the mediathèque, or attend any of the events.

Opening hours are:
Saturday to Wednesday
9 am to 12 noon and 4 to 7 pm

Thursdays (Mediatheque only)
9.30 am to 12 noon

Tel: 671037, 674069
Fax 671044
e-mail: ccfdoha@qatar.net.qa
http//:www.qatar.net.qa/ambadoha

Centre Culturel Français
Doha, Qatar

SCHOOLS LISTINGS

This is by no means an exhaustive listing of educational establishments in Qatar, but it may help you get started on your enquiries! Also included are Cultural Centres which offer information on education overseas.

Maha Kindergarten	699294
American Cultural Centre (this is a US Embassy automatic PABX number, follow the instructions!)	884101
American School of Doha	421377
Aptech Computer Training Centre	412266
Bangladesh MHM High School & College	435342
Bright Future Pakistani School	683250
British Council	426193
Doha College	687379
Doha English Speaking School	870170
Doha Independent School	684495
Doha Montessori School	691635
Doha Nursery	475045
Egyptian Language School	681682
English Modern School	672405
Family Development Centre	474263
French Cultural Centre	671037
French School	835800
Gulf English School	873865
Ideal Indian School	684929
Iranian School	675268
Japanese School	684234
Jordanian School	358897
Lebanese School	683210
MES Indian School	683344
Middle East International School	449892
Mulberry Bush Nursery	361427
NIIT Education & Training Centre	314976
Pakistan Education Centre	683250
Pak Shama	654600
Park House English School	423343
Phillipine School of Doha	364148
QAFCO Norwegian School	771323
Qatar Academy	803434
Qatar International School	690552
Qatar University	832222
Shaqab College of Design Arts	805602
Shaqab Institute for Girls	815690

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British Week

This year's British Week, from November the 9th to the 19th will be featuring a whole host of cultural, sporting, gastronomic, commercial and fun events throughout the country. There are strong historical ties between Britain and Qatar, and this is yet another way in which the many communities in the country can be brought together and introduced to the best that Britain has to offer - in trade, education, culture and sport.

Whilst a number of mini-exhibitions will be held at The Mall, a major exhibition there will be the unique Football Nation Exhibition sponsored by the British Council, the UK Department of Trade and Industry and the English Football Association. This multi-media show, never seen in public before, re-creates the atmosphere of a typical British football ground on match day and makes its world debut in Doha.

The Commercial Bank of Qatar (CBQ) is once again hoping to sponsor a series of British Films at the Gulf Cinema and a number of the hotels and clubs have special programmes of events, supplementing the British products promotions. A similar event was held in April '98 and it was the success of last year's programmes that led to plans for this year's British Week.

Amongst the sporting events scheduled for British Week is a fun race across the peninsula from Dukhan to Doha, finishing with free refreshments at The Mall. It's planned as a team event, with each participant required to cover just a fraction of the total distance. And whilst some entrants will take it as a serious athletics event, the emphasis is on fun. Rules have yet to be finalised, but the chances are your team could opt to roller blade, sand-yacht, skate-board, run, jump, hop (or crawl!) the distance. There will be prizes not just for the fastest, but for the best-dressed team, the most unusual method of covering the distance, etc.

On the more serious sporting side, matches at the Golf and Rugby Club will

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pitch 'Qatar' against 'Britain' and 'world' teams (all, of course drawn from players resident in Qatar). Soccer matches too will be played during British week, along the same sorts of lines - but of course, England, Wales and Scotland will be highlighted!

Several shops and stores will be featuring goods "made in Britain", and the Doha Club will be featuring British menus, afternoon teas, and a series of family events with a British theme. The hotels will be hosting concerts by a number of British artists, and ANZ Grindlays Bank are once again to stage a Britain/Qatar painting competition for students. Last year HSBC (or as it was known then, HSBC British Bank), brought in a Formula One racing car, which went on display in The Mall - this year, there will be a Formula One simulator for the young and young-at-heart to test their racing skills!.

British Week is being sponsored by the British Embassy and organised by a committee comprising representatives of British and local companies operating in Qatar. They are being assisted by representatives from British Airways, Qatar Airways, clubs, hotels, recreational facilities, and a number of schools following the British curriculum.

Watch the local press for up-to-the-minute details of dates, timings and venues - but we hear there's a chance that a London-style double-decker bus may be available to ferry enthusiastic participants between events!

More and more events and 'happenings' are being added to the list each week, but at the time of going to press, this is what the varied calendar of events looks like:

- Art Exhibition at the Ramada Hotel sponsored by ANZ
- Autumn Fair held by the Doha Independent School
- Birmingham Chamber of Commerce Trade Mission visit
- British Ball organised by the Welsh, Caledonian & St George's Societies
- British Equestrian Overseas Association
- British Farce performed by the Doha Players
- British Film Week presented by the Commercial Bank of Qatar
- British Formula 1 racing car simulator presented by HSBC
- British Gastronomic, children's entertainment and Cultural Week at the Doha Club
- Chas & Dave performing at the Ramada Hotel
- Folk Band at the National Theatre
- Football Nation Exhibition at The Mall
- Fun Run/Walk organised by the Round Table (Dukhan to Doha)
- Golf Competition at Dukhan Golf Club
- Golf Competition sponsored by British Aerospace at the Doha Golf Club
- Higher Education workshop sponsored by British Council
- Horse Races at the Equestrian Club
- London Medicine Healthcare Seminar
- Piper of the Scots Guards will be playing the bagpipes at various events
- Royal Naval Frigate and RAF Aircraft visiting
- Rugby Nations Cup at the Rugby Club
- Sports Hall Athletics
- Supercatex Catalogue Exhibition at the Ramada Hotel sponsored by Dept. Trade & Industry
- Tennis Tournament sponsored by QNB

Developing trade relations

Qatar and Britain are well established trading partners, and British trade delegations are frequent visitors to the country. Whilst many regional Chambers of Commerce in the UK organise such missions and from time to time conduct business seminars, one UK organisation works year-round to promote trade between Britain and the Middle East.

The Middle East Association (MEA) was set up in 1961 to help British companies doing business in Arab countries, Iran and Turkey. It is a non-political, non profit making organisation financed by members' subscriptions, and staffed by people with extensive 'hands on' experience of exporting to, and living in, the Middle East.

MEA * promotes trade in goods and services between the UK and the Middle East * organises seminars and meetings to discuss key markets and opportunities * supplies market information, advice and key contacts * provides a forum where members can meet to exchange information and ideas and * organises trade missions and participation in exhibitions.

More than 330 large and small UK-based companies and 60 overseas companies are members of the Association. They include British firms trading with the Middle East and foreign-owned companies based in the UK, trading with the Middle East

Middle East based companies and individuals doing business in the UK can become overseas members.

The Association organises about 60 to 70 seminars, discussion groups and meetings each year, as well as holding a monthly "At Home" reception for Association members and invited guests (including representatives of UK Government departments and Middle East embassies in London). Speakers, who include diplomats and government officials as well as businessmen, can offer useful economic, commercial and political information.

Following a very successful programme of trade missions and overseas exhibitions in 1998, the Middle East Association once again secured Department of Trade and Industry financial support for activities in the 1999/2000 financial year. So far this year, programmes have been completed in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, and the UAE. Missions will also participate in Saudi Healthcare in Jeddah from the 19th - 23rd of September; the Tehran International Trade Fair from the 1st to the 9th of October; and the PREGO Oil and Gas Exhibition in Cairo from December 5th to the 9th.

For further information about The Middle East Association's activities, missions, exhibitions and other future events as well as membership, please contact Lawrie Walker on : Tel: (+44) 0171 839 2137 or Fax: (+44) 0171 839 6121. [You need to use the full 0171 inner London prefix if you're calling from outer London or elsewhere in the UK, but drop the zero if you're calling from Qatar.]

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Qatar Telecom (Q-Tel) Q.S.C.

Nine months after the formation of Qatar Telecom as a Qatari Joint Stock company, Q-TEL is blazing a path of excellence in the telecommunications business. All the major services have continued to grow, and a number of new services have been introduced to meet customer preferences and demand. The result is that Q-TEL and its services have become more accessible to a wider section of the population, and costs to the consumer have been kept down whilst company profits have continued to grow. Q-TEL is determined to meet the expectations of its 10,000+ shareholders by ensuring that the company is managed with a view to creating shareholder value. Its central objective is to achieve a continuous and sustained increase in the value of its shares and that is only achieved by satisfying customer needs and systematically tapping new sources of value whilst identifying new areas for further growth.

Ever mindful of the rapid changes in information and communications technology, and particularly of the desire of people in Qatar to keep abreast of the latest developments, Q-TEL introduced its 'Internet for All' programme in May 1999. Just by dialing 161, anyone with a computer, the relevant software and an international phone line, can access the Internet for just QR10 per hour. For those who only want to access the Net occasionally, it's a cost-effective option. There's no need for them to subscribe to the dial-up service or to have a dedicated line; frequent users, however still have suitable options for their needs. To meet the additional demand generated by the new service, Q-TEL increased its server's capacity and speed by 300% in a project with Canada's Tele-globe.

Q-TEL has invested heavily in ICO Global Communications so as to provide access to worldwide services via satellite for mobile phone users based in Qatar. It means that residents here can carry the same phone with them when they travel abroad, and what's more, ICO's new automated provisioning system has reduced a new subscriber's ordering and activation times from days to minutes with upgraded customer support. Q-TEL was the first telecom provider in the Gulf to introduce the IRIDIUM service commercially, operated by 66 satellites covering the globe but also connecting to Qatar's GSM system. The demand for Qatarnet (GSM) services continues unabated, and a very successful promotional campaign in mid-1999 which offered free connection and free SIM cards resulted in an additional 12,000 subscribers. Q-TEL has meanwhile also increased its investments in Thuraya Satellite Telecommunications Company, a regional mobile personal communications company, and signed a service provider agreement for Thuraya services in Qatar.

The opportunity to use the GSM service was also extended to a further section of the

population by making pre-paid and receive-only services available without the necessity for a Qatari sponsor. The new services proved a boon to those on a fixed or limited budget, but whose commitments and lifestyle meant that family, friends, employers or colleagues need to be able to contact them 24 hours a day.

An international pre-paid card service, (Q-Card) introduced in 1996, continues to be very successful, and enables card-holders to place international calls from any private or corporate line or from a telephone kiosk, regardless of whether or not that particular phone has an international line.

Public kiosks are continually growing in number, increasing phone availability in public areas, and Q-TEL's magnetic phone cards - with an increasing variety of pictures - are becoming avidly sought-after by collectors worldwide. Special cards are issued in connection with major sporting events and conferences, and some are sponsored by commercial establishments.

Q-TEL's pager service, with a market penetration of about 14 pagers per 100 of the population, continues to be one of the most popular in the world, and a special pager service is available for the blind.

Qatar Cable Vision continues to expand its service, and will be launching a new, 60 channel system before the end of 1999. QCV is responsible for providing Pay-TV services in Qatar, which it has been doing since 1993, using a 31-channel Multipoint Microwave Distribution System (MMDS) Subscribers who bought their cable vision systems from Q-TEL after February 1999 will be able to exchange their equipment for the new Multi-Video Distribution System (MVDS) system at a reduced price within three months of its launch.

A new Q-TEL Service Centre, in Souq Al Najada, has enabled existing and new customers to deal quickly and easily with the payment of bills, purchase of new equipment and requests for new services all under one roof. The introduction of a new Q-TEL central enquiry service has been prefaced by the launch of the 400400 number for general enquiries, meaning customers no longer have to recall separate enquiry numbers for different services and departments.

Q-TEL, mindful of its community role, regularly sponsors sporting events, and the activities of youth clubs and societies. It also continues its tireless efforts to enhance opportunities for Qatari nationals in the company, in terms of recruitment, development and promotions, with Qataris forming almost a quarter of the workforce.

On a very topical point, the Q-TEL 2000 project has been dealing with all the issues arising from the Y2K issue, and is confident that the telecommunications services it provides will not be affected by the date change, and that subscribers will continue to receive the current level of service and care.

In order to ensure that it stays at the head of its field, Q-TEL is planning to invest QR1.2 billion over the next five years in order to introduce new technologies such as Synchronous Digital Hierarchy (SDH), Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) and Fibre-in-the-loop (FITL). It has also been evaluating the best technology for the provision of multi-media services. Virtual Private Networks, Virtual Calling Cards and Voice Mail are also being introduced as well as Short Message Service, Frame-Relay and ATM-based services.

Q-TEL, the answer to all your telecommunications requirements.

U.K. HOLIDAY COTTAGES

Pine Lake RESORT

The resort is built around a 70 acre watersports lake, and provides first-class accommodation and extensive on-site leisure and entertainment facilities.

Pine Lake is perfectly situated. Lake Windermere, in the spectacular Lake District, is half an hour's drive and the Yorkshire Dales are within easy reach. Even nearer is the Trough of Bowland, a lesser-known area of outstanding natural beauty.

A ten minute drive will take you to the city of Lancaster, where places to visit include the castle, and the Leisure Park with its huge antiques centre, shopping complex and children's amusements. Visit The Duke's Theatre, an arts centre with an interesting programme of film and theatre. An even shorter drive will take you into Morecambe, a resort which has a peculiar charm reminiscent of the thirties and forties, with plenty of stalls, amusement arcades, and fun-for-the family entertainment. Children will love Frontierland, a theme park with lots of rides, and Happy Mount Park has illuminations, nursery-rhyme characters, and lots of fun for younger children. You can be in Blackpool in just under an hour. See the Tower, the illuminations, and one of the world's most spectacular and horrifying roller-coasters at Blackpool Pleasure Beach.

Pine Lake is a resort for all tastes. It is easy to reach, and ideally located for sightseeing.

The pine-clad lodges are centrally heated and comprise: Sunny open-plan lounge with TV, video, satellite, hi-fi and dining furniture. Kitchen with electric oven and hob, fridge, freezer, washer/dryer and microwave. Double and twin bedroom. Bathroom with shower over bath, hand basin and W.C. Private parking. Gas, electricity, bed linen and towels included. Cot available.

In the main complex you will find 'Splashers' leisure centre, with its heated swimming pool, jacuzzi, steam room and gymnasium. The restaurant caters for families, and also offers an excellent menu. Bar meals are available most lunchtimes. There is an entertainments room and bar, and a variety of events are offered, from children's Punch and Judy shows to music and dancing. The watersports centre at the far end of the lake, provides expert tuition and equipment at special guest hire prices for waterskiing, canoeing, and sailing. There are three tennis courts, and children's activity play areas around the lake.

Facilities & Services

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England, U.K.
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Fax. 0(974) 1524 736892
Mobile 07788 802446

Contact no. in Qatar
Tel. (974) 436718

A walk on the shore-side

Doha Bay, with its 7 km Corniche must be one of the most attractive settings in the world. Marhaba decided to take a leisurely stroll along the landscaped waterfront to pick out the various features and attractions.

The length of the Corniche is used by walkers, joggers and roller-bladers who are trying to maintain their keep-fit programmes, but you can tackle it in sections and easy stages for visits if you prefer! Bear in mind that if you park and walk the whole length of the Corniche, you've either got to cover the return journey on foot, or get a taxi! That's why many people go exploring bit by bit!

There are parking facilities along most of the route, but assuming that you may be wanting to meet up with friends, a convenient place to start is the large car park in front of the Doha Club. (If you want to start your walk in a really leisurely way, you can do so by meeting up at the Doha Club's Coffee Shop, which is on the water's edge and is open to non-members. From there, you can actually look out across the bay to your final destination!)

Walking from the main car park to the Corniche, you pass the small traditional building which houses the Qatar Fine Arts Society and the Qatar Photographic Society. You can watch Qatari craftsmen at work there in the afternoons (things like gypsum carving and model dhow construction) and it is the venue for the Societies' regular meetings and courses.

The area on the corner by the flyover has been attractively landscaped and is often featured by photographers. Before turning onto the Corniche, you may want to take a minor detour to look at the ceramic murals on the walls under the flyover.

Turn back onto the Corniche, and you will find a modern, but traditionally-influenced coffee shop on your right hand side. The red-brick structure houses restaurants and coffee shop and is very popular, especially in the evenings. The town side of the Corniche is gradually being landscaped along the next stretch, up to the roundabout which features three huge white sculptures which represent the traditional rose-water sprinklers. Turn left at that roundabout, and you will find the entrance to Qatar National Museum on your right-hand side. The museum houses numerous exhibits on traditional life, the

flora fauna and geology of Qatar. You can follow the country's progress from its early days through archaeological finds, learning about the lifestyle of the Bedouin and the seafarers and there is also an Aquarium full of fish and shellfish found in Gulf waters. You enter through an exhibition area related to pearls and pearling. Several different kinds of traditional dhow are moored in the museum's lagoon. The new Corniche is on reclaimed land, and the lagoon represents the original waterfront!

Walk back down onto the Corniche, and you'll find the Museum Park on your left, next to the museum, with a large attractively paved area used for outdoor celebrations, folk dancing etc., surrounded by tall flagpoles. This is particularly busy at times like National Day (September 3rd) or during Eid festivities. Behind the Park, you will see the two white, crenellated buildings of the Qatar Red Crescent Society - one belonging to the women's branch; a third building for the society is under construction just a little further on, actually fronting the Corniche. On your right hand side you'll come across the Rafco Marina and a harbour where a number of local boat owners keep small craft. Early in the morning, some fishermen sell their catch here, and there is a small unimposing but intriguing 'tea shop' frequented both by young Qataris and some of the old Qatari fishermen. Men gather here, at 'The Paradise' to chat and smoke the water pipes colloquially known as 'hubbly-bubbly pipes' or in Arabic, 'nargileh'or shisha. The entrance to Doha Port is a little further on, but you'll already be able to see the old jetties and the imposing new cargo port which receive both merchant ships and visiting naval vessels. Before you reach the roundabout with the port administrative offices, customs offices etc. you pass several 'juice stalls' on your left which serve delicious large and small glasses of fresh juice (you choose the combination of fruits). Between them and the twin towers of the Youth and Sports General Authority (YASA) and the Qatar Olympic committee, a group of young people have painted the panels of a mural depicting life in Qatar. Between the towers and the roundabout is the building of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Agriculture, and across the roundabout is the Head Office of Qatar National Bank, its windows covered by lacy designs of gypsum carving. On your right at this roundabout is a fountain made from large ceramic jars, much featured in photographs of the town!

The next imposing complex is the Ministry of Finance Economy and Trade; the original part of this building was known as Government House, and gave its name to the road running behind it. Part of the main souq area lies behind that road, as does the old post office and Post

Office Museum. (If you want to explore the souq, see the special Marhaba feature with details.) Work on landscaping this part of the sea wall began in the first part of 1999.

Moving on along the Corniche, next to the traffic lights is Qatar Central Bank. The main road leading down to the Corniche is Grand Hamad, and the old souq is across that road from the newer area. There are numerous small tea and juice stalls in the Souq, but if you don't want to deviate from the Corniche, then make your next stop the dhow harbour, with its fountain in the shape of an oyster and pearl at the entrance. Walk straight down the jetty to the end, and not only do you get a good look at the fishing nets, traps and dhows, you'll also find a group of three restaurants and two cafes, collectively known as Al Bandar. You can sit outside for a meal or snack and enjoy the view; if the weather is not so kind, you can sit indoors - the upstairs restaurants, for women and families, also have a stunning view! You'll have earned a break at this stage, having covered around 2.5 kilometres!

Returning to the Corniche, you pass the new Head Office building for HSBC and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs building on your left, and will soon come to the roundabout by the Diwan Emiri, the Emir's working palace. In the square in front of the palace is an unusual clock tower, the clock face being marked not in the 'Arabic numerals' we use in the west, but in the numerals used in the Arab world! The next jetty on your right is the Coastguard post, and from here onwards, the Corniche is lined by landscaped walks and plenty of parking - right round to the pyramid-shaped Sheraton Doha Hotel & Resort (a distance of 4.1 km).

After the Emiri Diwan, the area of town set back on your left is known as Al Bida, and is the location of the original settlement of what is now Doha. The next official building on your left is the Ministry of the Interior - an unusual design which makes the top of the building look wider than its base. there is an open area still being developed, with two small side roads leading down onto the Corniche, after which you'll find the start of Al Bida Park on your left.

This landscaped area, full of flowers and trees, has an attractive 'canal' style water feature running through the middle, crossed by bridges and trees and lined by small wooden-fronted shops. There is an art gallery in the park, which hosts short exhibitions by painters, sculptors and photographers, and there are plenty of attractions for children. These include a miniature railway, roundabouts, a boating lake, and a skateboarding or roller-blading 'half-pipe'. Refreshments are available in the park, which also has its own mosque. (Al Bida Park has car parking available on both sides).

The next roundabout on the Corniche is by a complex constructed for the former Ministry of Information, and which houses the Qatar National Theatre (the part of the

building farthest from the seafront). High up on the wall of the theatre structure, facing up the hill there is a bronze sculpture by Qatar artist Faraj Daham.

If you walk around the outer wall of the roundabout, on the sea side, you will find another set of ceramic murals featuring the traditional life of Qatar and the marine environment. If you're driving, the road side of the same wall features colourful geometric patterns which are based on the designs of Bedouin weaving. Carry on along the Corniche, and you will see more ceramic murals on the perimeter walls past the ministry complex on your left.

The next stretch of the seafront has several fast food restaurants, and between here and the Sheraton are both the jetties for boat trips around the bay and for the crossing to Palm Tree Island, a mini 'beach resort' in the bay.

On your left, you'll see the General Post Office, with decorative arched structures covering the building. The post office, in addition to its normal services, houses many of the city's electronic mail boxes, rented by residents for the delivery of their mail, and it is here that you can find the Philatelic Bureau and a display of Qatari stamps (although the national collection is housed elsewhere in town, in the Philatelic Club).

To the left at the next roundabout, you can see the tall lights of the Khalifa International Tennis & Squash Complex - home to the Qatar Mobil Open - the first ATP Tour event of each year - and the building of Al Dana Club, designed by a Qatari architect to reflect traditional Gulf architecture but modern techniques and comfort. Behind it are the even taller lights of the Qatar Club football stadium - one of many soccer clubs in the country. Once again, there are ceramic panels on the wall of the roundabout.

The next section of the Corniche lines Doha's newly-emerging commercial district, with the offices of a number of banks, insurance, communications, oil gas and petrochemicals companies. In amongst them is the complex housing the Courts of Justice, and the printing press belonging to the Ministry of the Interior. Pass another archway across the road (originally constructed to celebrate Qatar's hosting of a GCC summit meeting) and you'll draw level with twin green and white towers, another modern landmark of Doha. On your right is an unusual monument, based on the traditional 'dallah' or coffee pot, which is a popular feature for many amateur (and professional) photographers.

Just before the turning into the Sheraton, the roundabout has an attractive turret-shaped monument, with ceramic mosaic pictures of falcons etc - another magnet for cameras! Beyond it is the Qatar international Exhibition Centre and the Diplomatic Area.

If you fancy a break and some refreshment, you can end your walk at the Sheraton, where you can choose between several restaurants or opt for a snack and something cool to drink in the Atrium Coffee shop, gazing up into the open pyramid of the structure, watching the exposed glass lifts going up and down!

Right the way along the Corniche you will find plenty to photograph. At weekends and in the evenings, you will find families relaxing on the grass with their picnics and people sitting on the benches and the sea wall. It's a place for people to do their keep-fit exercises and it's a meeting place too. On Fridays in the good weather, it can be absolutely packed!

For more detail of some of the features mentioned here, check the 'What to See" section at the back of Marhaba. Enjoy your stroll!.

Getting Around Doha

You probably took a taxi or a limousine from the airport to your hotel or residence when you landed in Doha, but today is a brand new day and you're on your own. The question is, how do you get around town to your business appointments, to shop or to go sightseeing? How do you get to the outlying industrial areas, to other towns and villages?

Well, it's no good looking for a train station - shifting desert sands are notoriously harsh on tracks, and Qatar doesn't have a railway system. If you've arrived during the cooler months, then walking may seem an attractive option. Certainly a lot of people choose to stroll along the beautiful Corniche in the evenings or at weekends, or to go for a walk in one of the city's parks. However, offices are scattered right across town rather than being in one 'business district', and outside the various shopping areas, few of the main roads have pavements or sidewalks. In the summer months, when it can be both very hot and extremely humid, walking is something people generally try to avoid altogether!

In any case, to cover the major distances around town, or to get rapidly from one appointment to the next, you really need to travel by car. There are school buses, and a limited number of rural-service buses which run from Doha to outlying farms and villages, but they are very much geared to the requirements of the villagers, and knowledge of the routes and timings tends to be spread by word of mouth. In any case, they are not going to help you get around Doha or to your next appointment on time. For those wishing to sightsee the easy way, there are specialised tour operators, offering city and desert tours either by car or bus according to the numbers involved and the destinations.

Taxis are easy to spot - by law they are painted orange and white, must be registered and must display their licence numbers boldly both on the exterior bodywork and in the cab. Journeys are metered, and the rates over a given distance vary according to whether you are travelling during the day or at night; whether your journey begins or ends outside Doha city limits; whether you expect the driver to wait for you; and how much luggage is being transported with you.

By any standards, the taxis are cheap. However many of the drivers speak little or no English, which can be a disadvantage if you don't know the route you want to take, and so can't explain through sign language. (It is only in the last few years that each street has been formally named and each building numbered. Most of the drivers are not familiar with the names, but still navigate according to well-known landmarks.) Travelling to hotels, Ministry buildings, well-established corporate offices, the larger department stores or the souq presents no problems; finding smaller offices might take a little longer, but the drivers are very polite and helpful, and bystanders will often help you explain where you want to go.

You can't phone for the orange and white taxis, but you can hail them anywhere in the street and they are plentiful. The alternatives are to use one of the limousine services - still inexpensive by European standards at around QR40 per hour, or QR5 minimum charge plus QR2 per kilometre for journeys. You can book them by phone, and they will collect you from anywhere in or outside Doha.

If you drive, and have a valid licence, then car hire is an option. There are numerous rental companies offering both saloon cars and four-wheel drives. International licences are not

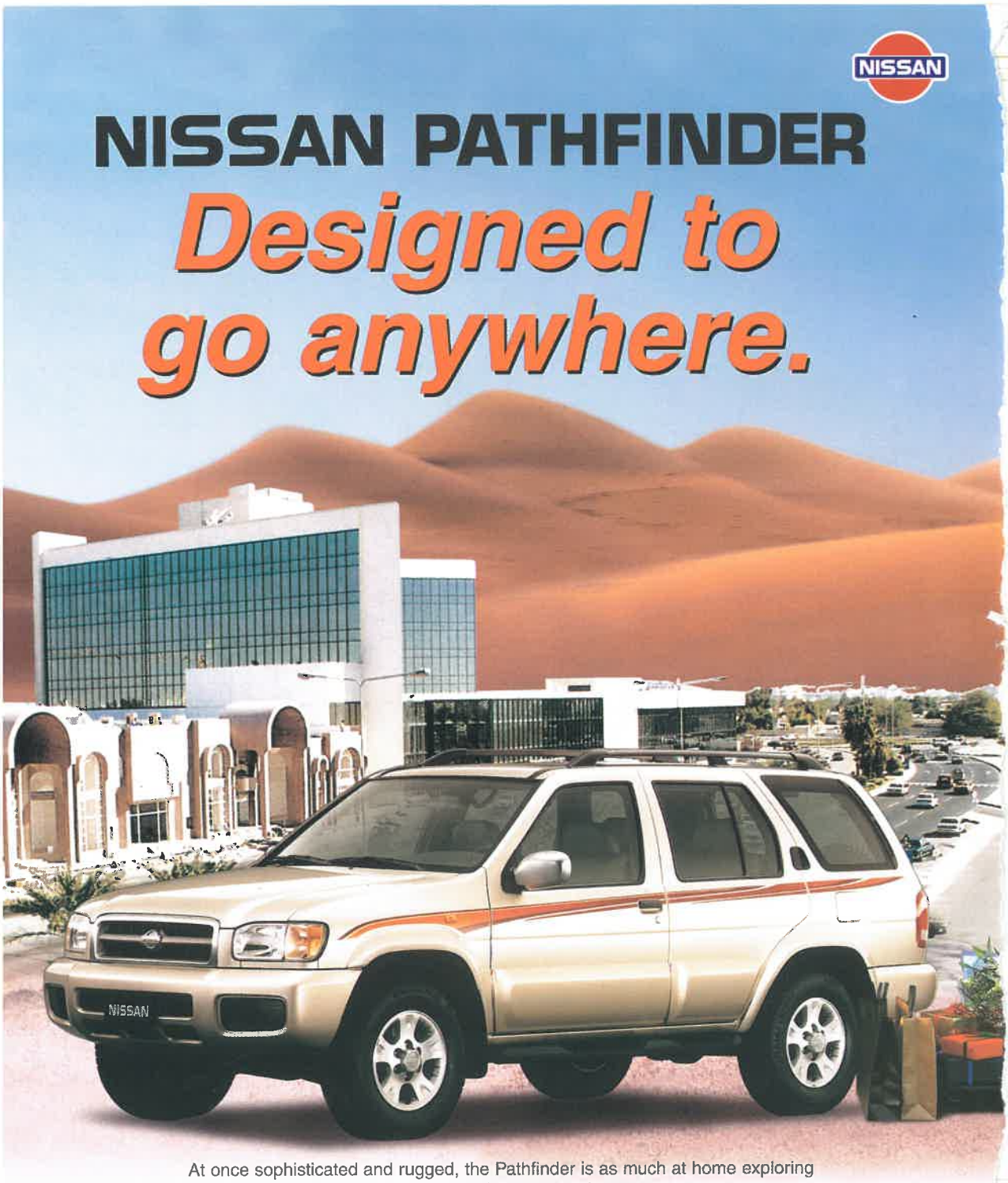
recognised, but you can drive on your own national licence for up to seven days. If your stay is any longer than that, then you will have to apply for a temporary Qatar licence (the car hire company can explain the procedure) and if you're moving to Qatar to live, you won't be able to get a permanent licence until your residence permit has been issued. In any case, for a temporary licence you have to produce your passport, a 'no objection' letter from your sponsor (the rental company can help you on that point) and you have to take both an eye test and a short oral test on traffic sign recognition. Rates for car hire vary, but you should be able to get something for around QR600 per week. Do check that the insurance is fully comprehensive, and always carry your licence, hire papers and insurance with you when you drive. It's a legal requirement, and you are expected to be able to produce the papers if you are stopped by a regular traffic patrol, or if you are unfortunate enough to be involved in an accident. In case of the latter, you are best advised to stop immediately (i.e. don't pull over to the side of the road or to a 'more convenient' spot.) A new law does permit you to move the vehicles if no-one has been hurt and if both parties agree on whose fault it was - but however obvious it is to you that the other driver was to blame, he or she may not agree, so play safe!

The main points to remember are:

* You drive on the right in Qatar.
* Main roads are under radar surveillance; a speeding ticket will cost you QR500.
* Speed limits are generally 50kph in residential areas, 80kph or 100kph on dual carriageways and ring roads, and 120kph on main roads outside the city limits. Watch out for speed signs, which appear both in English and Arabic.
* A number of junctions have cameras mounted on the traffic lights to spot drivers crossing the white line when the lights are against them.
* Not all drivers use lane discipline, so watch out as you approach turnings or roundabouts.
* Taxis will often stop abruptly to pick up passengers, even on roundabouts, so be wary!
* Illegal parking can result in your car being wheel-clamped.
* If you leave a car unattended on a main route used by Emiri or Ministerial convoys, it may be towed away. (Once you find where it's gone, it will cost a minimum of QR300 to get it back.)
* And lastly, if you drive outside town at night, watch out for camels on the road! If you hit a camel, damage to both you and the car is likely to be extensive, and such accidents are often fatal for both camels and drivers.

DOHA
UNIVERSITY OF QATAR
AL JAMIAA ST
DOHA GOLF CLUB
ALADDIN'S KINGDOM
N
TO AL KHOR & THE NORTH
AL MARKHIYA ST
AL JAMIAA ST
AL ISTIQLAL ST
AL WAHDA ST
IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT
TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT
KHALIFA ST.
AL JAMIAA ST.
AL MARKHIYA ST.
DOHA PLAYERS THEATRE
TV ROUNDABOUT
KHALIFA ST.
QBS
QTV
KHALIFA TENNIS COMPLEX
MAJLIS AL TAAWON ST.
AL CORNICH
SHERATON DOHA HOTEL
WEAPONRY MUSEUM

CENTRAL POST OFFICE
NATIONAL THEATRE
PALM TREE ISLAND
DHOW HARBOUR
PORT
BIN THANI STREET
AL ISTIQLAL ST.
AL CORNICHE
MOHD
HAMAD GENERAL HOSPITAL
AL RAYYAN ROAD
AL RAYYAN ROAD
DIWAN EMIRI
AL KOOT FORT
NATIONAL MUSEUM
MOHAMMED ST.
DOHA SAILING CLUB
MARRIOTT HOTEL
DOHA CLUB
RAS ABU ABBOUD ST.
JAWAAN ST.
SUHAIM BIN HAMAD ST.
AL JAZEERA ST.
GULF AIR OFFICE
BIN MAHMOUD ST.
AL KHALEEJ ST.
AL DIWAN ST.
AL ASMAKH ST.
GRAND HAMAD ST.
JABR BIN
AL AMIR ST.
AL SADD ST.
WADI MUSHEIREB ST.
SOFITEL HOTEL
A RING ROAD
C RING ROAD
BRITISH COUNCIL
BURGER KING
THE CENTRE
B RING ROAD
DOHA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
AL MIRQAB AL JADEED
NEW TRADE GALLERY
AL MATAR ST.
C RING ROAD
STERLING FOOD GROUP
SALWA ROAD
AL MUNTAZAH STREET
QATAR AIRWAYS OFFICE
C RING ROAD
GULF & DOHA CINEMAS
C RING ROAD
AIRPORT POST OFFICE
YOUTH CREATIVE ART CENTRE
D RING ROAD
TO AL WAKRA & MESAIEED
TO INDUSTRIAL AREA, UMM BAB & ABU SAMRA
SALWA ROAD
QATAR SCIENTIFIC CLUB
AL MUNTAZAH STREET
NAJMA STREET
D RING ROAD
THE MALL
FRANCH CULTURAL CENTRE



At once sophisticated and rugged, the Pathfinder is as much at home exploring downtown as the great outdoors.

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Marhaba Motoring

Welcome to Marhaba's regular Motoring Section. In an earlier issue, we asked readers what we could do to make the magazine even more informative. "Tell us about motoring here in Qatar", they said. So, in issue 14, we introduced some features covering various aspects of motoring in Qatar, including a listing of vehicle dealers; some factors to consider before buying a vehicle; miscellaneous motoring facts; off-road driving preparation check-list; classic cars; coolants and fluids; tyres; a closer look at a large sport utility vehicle (SUV), a sporty luxury saloon, and a compact 4x4; some checks to carryout prior to purchasing a second-hand vehicle; and an insight into Qatar's traffic laws, violations and fines.

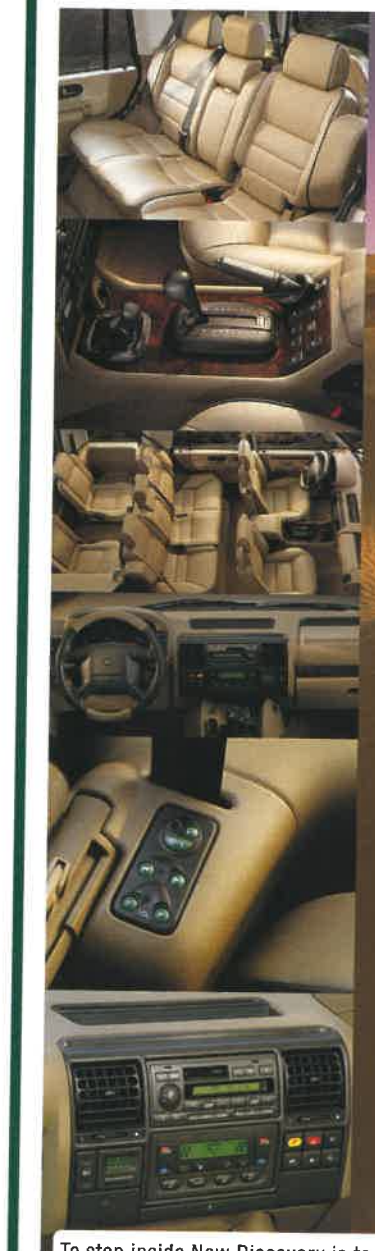
We are pleased to report that the feedback from readers of those initial features has generally been very positive and encouraging, so in this current issue of Marhaba we have extended the range of topics to cover other aspects of motoring, including basic information about the used vehicle market, the rental and leasing market, vehicle service centres/repair workshops, vehicle trouble-shooting, and lubricants.

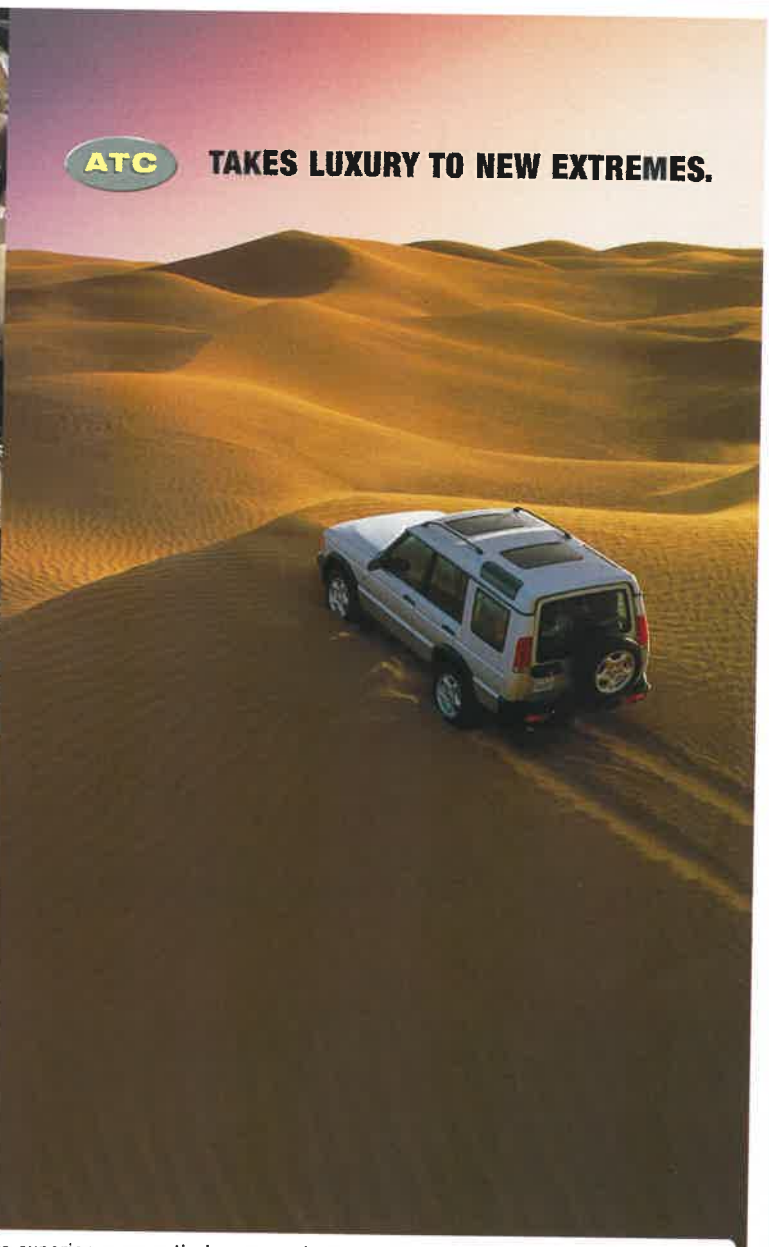
The aim of these features is give you an idea of your options. For instance, if you want to be an owner, Marhaba Motoring dealer listings offer a basic market guide to who sells what in Qatar, but if you are more interested in long-term leasing or spot rental, rather than buying a new or used vehicle, our information on some of the rental operations will be of interest to you.

And, on a lighter, off-beat note, we have included a few miscellaneous motoring facts about particularly interesting/unusual vehicles and motoring achievements, and reported on two quite different collectors items - a locally restored vintage motorcycle and a classic car (a feature on collecting classics proved very popular with readers of the initial issue of Marhaba Motoring).

New Vehicle Dealers

Abdullah Abdulghani & Bros.	TOYOTA, LEXUS	629222
Al Attiyah Motors & Trading	KIA	420520
Al Fardan Automobiles	BMW, LAND-ROVER	477577
Al Mana Motors	FORD, LINCOLN, MERCURY, PEUGEOT	621222
Doha Automobiles	PROTON	651441
Doha Motors & Trading Co.	CMC	651441
Doha Marketing Services Co.	HONDA, VOLVO	477800
El Naael Co.	CITROEN SSANGYONG	682745 432111
Fahed Trading	MERCEDES, HUMMER	320000
Gulf Automobiles & Trading	PORSCHE, AUDI, VW	446270
Jaidah Motors & Trading	CHEVROLET, ISUZU	426161
Mannai Trading - Auto Sales	CADILLAC,GMC,OPEL, SUBARU, RENAULT, DAEWOO	412555
- Commercial Vehicles	EICHER, DAF	
Middle East Traders - Car Sales	ROLLS-ROYCE, BENTLEY	428111
- Commercial Vehicles	TATA, MITSUBISHI	690862
Mustafawi Automobiles	MERCEDES	446993
Nasser Bin Khaled & Sons	MERCEDES	443838
National Car Co.	HYUNDAI	680658
	MAZDA	321424
New Cars Centre	JAGUAR, SAAB	314685
New Trade Engineering	ALFA ROMEO, FIAT, LANCIA	444622
Qatar Automobiles	MITSUBISHI, GALLOPER	699665
Saleh Al Hamad Al Mana Co.	NISSAN	441334
Taleb Trading	DAIHATSU, ASTON MARTIN, MASERATI	440442
Teyseer Trading	SUZUKI	621345
United Cars - Al Mana	JEEP	621222





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EBD Electronic Brake Distribution. HDC Hill Descent Control. ETC Electronic Traction Control.

LAND ROVER

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Fax: 477799. Service Centre: Industrial Area, Street No 1. Tel: 601177, Fax: 601537

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Deciding to Buy?
Some Options to Consider

Since public transport in Qatar is quite limited, and taking taxis everywhere is not really practical on a long-term basis, moving around generally requires private transport, which means acquiring a set of "wheels". A survey of the Qatar market opportunities, has identified many options .... more than may be initially thought of ... and these are outlined below :

- Purchase of a new vehicle (see page 116 for New Vehicle Dealers list)
  - a) by cash
  - b) financed by monthly installments
- Purchase of a used vehicle (see page 140 for a guide to the Used Vehicle market)
- Rental & Leasing [associated with Vehicle Rental companies] (see page 121 for a guide)

A survey of the New Vehicle Dealers revealed that in addition to the normal options of purchase by cash or installments, as mentioned above, most of them are also developing various additional schemes which offer more choice, flexibility and built-in safeguards. Such alternative deals, include :

- Purchase
  - a) partly financed by trade-in of a used vehicle
  - b) backed up by
  - i. after-sales warranties
  - ii. service contracts
  - iii. buy-back guarantees
  - iv. Leasing arrangements, with an option to purchase at the end of the term

One such example is outlined below, and others will be dealt with in future issues.

Mannai Auto Division has recently introduced three new options for private motorists. Sales & Marketing Manager, Malcolm Saunders, told Marhaba Motoring that the three new value-added benefit programmes are designed to give a complete service and total peace of mind to customers, and to make driving or owning a vehicle, from the extensive range offered by Mannai, as simple and as care-free as possible.

Malcolm outlined the options as follows

Now with a **Buy-back GUARANTEE**

1) **Vehicle Long-Term Leasing** Previously restricted to companies, but it is now possible for anyone to take this option, which can be for any set period between one and four years. The programme takes care of servicing and maintenance, and gives the option to buy the vehicle at the end of the lease, or to return it.

2) **Guaranteed Buy-Back** Offers a buyer the security of a guaranteed buy-back price after a set period. Provided that the vehicle has been serviced according to the manufacturer's schedule, Mannai will guarantee the value, taking away any uncertainty that a customer may have about the cost of ownership.

3) **Mannai Full-Service Contracts** Cover the vehicle ownership period, which includes all aspects of maintenance, apart from misuse and accidents. Scheduled servicing is carried out at the Mannai Service Centre, which also offers a Quick Lube Centre as well as a 24-hour Breakdown Service.

WARRANTY
2 YEARS or 100,000 km

Further details can be obtained from Malcolm Saunders (Tel: 412555, Direct: 410998).

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  Manufacturing and supplying house hold and office furniture, Interior decorations of residence, shops and offices.
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  Professional property management, leasing fully-furnished, semi-furnished and unfurnished villas and apartments in prime locations.
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VEHICLE RENTAL & LEASING IN QATAR

How It All Began

In the early 1970's, when vehicle rental was non-existent in Qatar, K.P. Abdul Hameed and his brother-in-law began the business by renting out their own personal cars! However, soon their modest fleet of two cars fell far short of the growing demand for rented vehicles in Doha, so by 1974 they registered their pioneering Al Muftah Rent-A-Car business, and started operations in a professional way, and the fledgling vehicle rental market was started! Twenty five years later, even with the huge competition now in the Qatar rental market (around 170 registered rental operations to date!), including some multi-national players who entered the local market in the 1980's, Al Muftah Rent-A-Car is still very prominent, with one of the largest vehicle fleets. Abdul Hameed attributes their survival, and continuing success, to "welcoming competition and modifying the company's strategy according to the prevailing market situation" (for instance, moving into the vehicle long-term leasing market), but it is also apparent that his hands-on approach, long experience and intimate market knowledge, is an important factor which enables Al Muftah Rent-A-Car to retain a substantial market share.

One of the global operators that entered the Qatar market in the 1980's is Europcar (in association with Mannai Trading). Assistant Manager Lubino Soares outlined the current operation as follows: "Europcar offers daily and short-term rentals for a wide variety of vehicles, from the Daewoo Matiz to the Cadillac De Ville, and a chauffeur service is available on request. Also, as part of an international group, Europcar can arrange world-wide rentals through an extensive network of over 4,300 offices in 130 countries.

Recognising market trends, Europcar also arrange long-term leasing of vehicles. This has previously been restricted to companies, but it is now available to private motorists and can be for any set period between one and four years. Scheduled servicing and maintenance is included in the leasing deal, and there is the option to buy the vehicle at the end of the term, or to return it.

For companies needing a number of vehicles, professional fleet leasing facilities are available. Europcar have long experience in this field and can deal with fleets of any size, backed-up by the extensive facilities of the Mannai Service Centre. Leasing contracts for company fleets include full insurance, maintenance and replacement vehicles."

Some Vehicle Rental & Leasing Operations

ABDULLAH ABDULGHANI & BROS. CO. W.L.L.	437000	Al Mana Fleet	622888
		Avis Rent-a-Car	447766
ALMUFTAH RENT A CAR	328100	Budget	419500
		Hertz - Al Mana Rent-a-Car	622891
Europcar Inter rent	438404	New Rent-a-Car Co	311201

Korando 4x4

Perhaps the most fun you can have on four wheels

This is Korando. A radical new 4x4 sport-utility inspired by the legendary military jeep. And perhaps the most fun you can have on four wheels today.

This is one 4x4 designed for serious fun both on-road and off. Powered by Mercedes-Benz-licensed engines delivering up to 220 PS, Korando's muscle is prominently reflected in every body curve and line penned by renowned British designer Ken Greenley. Built by Ssangyong Motor Company, Korea's leading maker of 4x4s, Korando also features the latest advances in technology backed by 40 plus years of automaking experience - including building civilian jeeps for the Korean market.

If you're looking for a sport-utility that delivers in every way, you've found your 4x4, Korando. Perhaps the most fun you can have on four wheels.

- Mercedes Benz engine 3.2i 6 cylinder, 220 hp.
- 4 speed automatic transmission from Mercedes Benz
- Power steering
- Power windows, power mirrors
- Safety ABS with traction control (ABD)
- Central locking
- Rear window wiper
- Alloy wheels
- Driver's air bag
- Simulated woodgrain trim

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SSANGYONG

Interesting MOTORING FACTS

- An adventurous couple who set out to take a long holiday "to see the world" on four wheels in 1984 are still on the road after 15 years, having already covered five continents, 125 countries and 500,000 km, in the same 1982 Toyota Land Cruiser! The intrepid travellers, Emil and Liliana Schmid, who recently passed through Dubai (for the third time!), have a unique place in the Guinness Book of World Records, including the longest journey and the most countries travelled through in a single vehicle.

- Gerard Starck - a 53 year-old French bachelor - passed through Doha recently on his old 600 cc Honda motorbike in the course of his world tour to create a symbolic link between the Red Cross and Red Crescent societies around the world. He set out in October 1997 from Geneva (the headquarters of the Red Cross) and by the time he reached Qatar he had visited 62 countries, in 490 days, and logged 70,000 km. When he rode away from Qatar, he had a further 68 countries on three continents to visit and estimated he would complete his gruelling, globe-trotting mission in July 2001, having covered a total of 200,000 km!

- Five of the world's biggest auto makers - GM, Ford, DaimlerChrysler, Toyota and Renault - have announced they are pursuing a common industry-wide wiring standard for new vehicles, which will enable automotive suppliers to design their products to plug into millions of cars and trucks, regardless of the vehicle maker. Industry officials have said that this common approach should lead to an array of technological advances in in-vehicle communications and entertainment equipment, such as dashboard-mounted : paging systems, worldwide web access, e-mail, and even satellite TV being widely available on vehicles from about 2002.

- Mitsubishi Motors is planning to launch a new compact car that aims to have the highest fuel-efficiency among conventional vehicles, based on an improved version of its gasoline direct injection (GDI) engine and a system that automatically halts the engine at stops. The car is expected to achieve up to 33 km on one litre of petrol!

- Auto industry insiders say that the ideal combination of a high performance, almost silent vehicle that will run on renewable fuels, with little or no pollution, is likely to become a practical reality by about 2004, with the rapid progress in developing revolutionary new "fuel-cell" technology. Such an environmentally-friendly vehicle is powered by electricity generated in-situ, instead of being obtained from a weighty storage battery as in a conventional electric car. Most promising of the experimental fuel-cell vehicles are those powered by methanol, a liquid fuel, which is easy to convert into electricity-producing hydrogen gas, and which have a fuel tank driving range of around 300 miles. Japan's Nissan has already unveiled such a methanol fuel-cell vehicle, which is far more environmentally-friendly than traditional petrol-driven vehicles, and virtually eliminates toxic gas emissions (nitrogen oxides, hydrocarbons and carbon monoxide), producing only water as the main by-product.

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A Closer Look at
PROTON WIRA

The Proton Wira is a relatively recent entrant to the Qatar market from Malaysia. The compact design was originally based on Japanese technology, but over the years some individual characteristics have been incorporated into the model to overcome the tough equatorial conditions in the home market, which makes the latest Wira ideally suited to the demanding conditions of the Middle East.

The Proton Wira comes in 4-door saloon and 5-door 'aeroback' versions, with a choice of engines and manual or automatic gears. (The 1.6 Liter,16 valve Petrol Injected automatic has 4 forward ratios.) For a compact family car, the interior is quite spacious, with comfortable seating for 5 people, and the power-assisted steering, sporty steering-wheel, electric windows and central door locking, all enhance the car's appeal. The new instrumentation and wood-finished facia is a big improvement over earlier versions, and the new alloy wheels have added an additional luxury feature.

The engine is transverse-mounted, easily accessible, and the simple lay-out makes for easy servicing, so it is well-suited to do-it-yourself maintenance. As might be expected of a compact car, driving around town it is quite "nippy", and, even on longer runs, the car cruised easily, as well as economically. The ride was comfortable on any surface and the car handled well, even in fast cornering, thanks to the front-wheel drive. Considering the low price tag, the many "extras" included as standard, and the dealer's 3 year/60,000km warranty, plus 2 free services, the Wira is good value in its class.

SPECIFICATION :

Engine : 1.5 Litre, 4-cylinder in-line/12 valves;
Maximum Power : 90 bhp @ 6,000 rpm
Drive System : Transverse mounted engine, front-wheel drive system
Gears : Manual 5-forward ratios or Automatic 3-forward ratios
Acceleration : 0-100 km/h in about 13 seconds
Top Speed (km/h) : 170 (manufacturer's data)
Fuel System : Petrol : carburettor
Fuel Consumption : 6.0 Litre/100km (cruising at 90 km/h)
Steering : Power-assisted, rack & pinion
Suspension : MacPherson strut & coil spring (front); multi-link (rear)
Brakes : Power-assisted ventilated disc (front), drum/solid disc (rear)
A/C : Standard
Audio System : AM/FM radio & cassette player
Power : Windows
Door Locks : Central-locking
Seating Capacity : 5 persons
Interior : Wood-finish facia, luxury velour seat fabric
Exterior : Alloy wheels
Safety : The design incorporates safety engineering features, including :

- rigid body structure for collision and roll-over protection
- front air-bag for the driver
- a third high-level stop light

The Proton Wira was reviewed thanks to the loan of a test vehicle from Doha Automobiles, who will be pleased to arrange a test drive for readers [contact : Sales Manager, Savio Saldanha or his colleagues (Tel: 651441)].

A Closer Look at

RENAULT CLIO 1.6 RT

The new Renault Clio, although conceptually designed as a compact car, has many refinements and a really exceptional amount of internal space - with five genuine seats, generous storage space, and a more than adequate boot - so it is really in the super mini category. Furthermore, the rear bench seat base and seat back, can be split 60/40 and folded down to enable bulky objects to be loaded through the tailgate and be weekend transported in the extended luggage compartment, which makes it a remarkably versatile vehicle.

A test drive of the automatic transmission model over a recent Eid break allowed a thorough review of the car, both around and out-of-town. This not only allowed hands-on experience of the ease of driving and manoeuvrability normally expected of a modern small car, but it also demonstrated the unusual priority given to driver and passenger comfort, making the car suitable for longer runs, as well as town runs. The transmission, which adapts to the style of driving, inspires confidence in the driver, and good all-round vision, ergonomically-designed dashboard lay-out, comfortable seats and the extensive range of equipment fitted as standard (such as heat-reflective windscreen and high-tint rear screen), made driving a great pleasure. Definitely a super mini for everyone's short-list!

SPECIFICATION :

Engine : 1.6 Litre, 4–cylinders in-line, transverse-mounted
Maximum Power : 90 bhp/5250 rpm
Drive System : Front-wheel drive
Gears : Manual 5 forward ratios or Automatic Proactive 4 forward ratios
Acceleration : 0-100 km/h in 10.6 seconds
Top Speed : 181 km/h (manufacturer's estimates)
Fuel System : Multi-point Petrol-injection
Fuel Consumption : 7.2 litres/100 km (mixed town and out-of-town driving)
Steering : Power-assisted
Suspension : Coil springs front and rear
Brakes : Ventilated discs (front), drums (rear)
Power : Windows
Door Locks : Remote central locking using a coded ignition key engine
Security : Computerised engine immobiliser linked to the coded ignition key
Seating Capacity : 5
Interior feature : Ergonomically-desinged dashboard
Exterior feature : Heat reflective windscreen
Safety : ***The design incorporates as standard a number of technical features which enhance safety :***
• structural and side-door reinforcements• seat-belt pre-tensioners and force limiters • anti-lock braking system (ABS) • front air bag for the driver • side-protection padding in front doors • a third high-level stop light • a control to adjust the headlamp beam height according to the load on board.

The Renault Clio was reviewed thanks to the loan of a test vehicle from Mannai Auto Sales, who will be pleased to arrange a test drive for readers [contact Gaby Yousef or his colleagues (Tel: 412555)].

A Closer Look at

CHEVROLET LUMINA LTZ

The all-new, rear-wheel drive Chevrolet Lumina is a spacious family saloon, which has been specifically engineered to suit the Middle East. During research and development, the all-new Lumina was subjected to rigorous quality, durability and reliability testing under the most extreme conditions. This has resulted in many superb features, including :

- comfortable seating for five adults
- rear-wheel drive, and a refined independent suspension to enhance structural strength, ride, handling, stability, safety and comfort
- double strength air-conditioning to effectively deal with excessive heat
- front and rear a/c ducts to ensure efficient air-conditioning throughout the car
- a painting process which offers maximum resistance to the severest conditions

A long distance test drive of the new Lumina LTZ model demonstrated these features impressively, especially the comfortable seating, smooth ride and sure-footed handling. Also, because the interior is spacious, and the 3.8 liter V6, fuel-injected engine delivers ample power smoothly through a 4-gear automatic transmission, a long journey is a pleasurable and memorable experience, both for the driver and the passengers!...even those in the rear who enjoy generous seat space and their own a/c ventilation!!

SPECIFICATION :

Engine : 3.8 Litre, 6-cylinders, V-formation
Maximum Power : 215 bhp @ 5,200 rpm
Drive System : Rear-wheel drive
Gears : Automatic 4-forward ratios, with power mode
Fuel System : Petrol : multi-point injection (MPI)
Fuel Consumption : Litre /100 km (town driving)
Steering : Power-assisted, rack-and-pinion
Suspension : Macpherson strut + stabiliser (front); independent coil springs (rear)
Brakes : Power-assisted, ventilated disc (front), solid disc (rear)
A/C : Automatic climate control, front & rear ventilation
Audio System : AM/FM radio, stereo cassette, CD/seek/scan
Power : Seats, windows, mirrors, antenna
Seats : Front bucket reclining + lumbar support, 4-way electric adjustment
Door Locks : Remote central-locking, using a coded ignition key
Security : Fuel cut-off and alarm linked to the coded ignition key
Seating Capacity : 5 adults
Interior features : Leather trim (optional)
Exterior features : Alloy wheels, tinted windows
Safety : The design incorporates several safety initiatives, including : • 4-wheel electronic anti-lock braking system (ABS) • front air-bags for the driver & front passenger

The Chevrolet Lumina was reviewed thanks to the loan of a test vehicle from Jaidah Motors & Trading Co. who will be pleased to arrange a test drive for readers [Sales Tel: 426161].

A Closer Look at

NISSAN PATHFINDER SE

The new Nissan Pathfinder has been designed to cater for the diverse needs of a growing number of motorists who are in search of a sophisticated, yet rugged, 4x4 sport utility vehicle (SUV).

A test drive of the automatic-transmission model, over a recent week-end, allowed a thorough review of the vehicle in-town, out-of-town, and off-road.

The new Pathfinder's 3.3-litre V6 engine, fitted with Nissan's fuel-injection system, smoothly delivers substantial power, is responsive, and yet is remarkably quiet, so the vehicle is equally suited for driving in and out of town, and for off-road fun and adventure.

It was exceptionally effortless to drive, and driver and passenger comfort was of a noticeably high standard, thanks to a roomy, well-thought-out interior, complete with useful practical features, which included seats with lumbar support and a powerful, fully automatic a/c.

In addition to the ease of driving, a smooth ride and superior handling is achieved by a newly-tuned rear suspension, which also makes this 4x4 ideal for routine daily transport and cruising around town, as well as for leisure trips where it needs to cope with a variety of terrain.

With its elegant styling, the new Nissan Pathfinder will definitely appeal to those who appreciate the advantages of a sophisticated, yet rugged, SUV.

SPECIFICATION

Engine : 3.3 Litre, 6-cylinders, V-formation
Maximum Power : 185 bhp @ 4,800 rpm
Drive System : Shift-on-the-fly part-time 4WD
Gears : Manual 5-forward ratios or Automatic 4-forward ratios
Acceleration : 0-100 km/h in seconds
Top Speed (km/h) : (manufacturer's data)
Fuel System : Petrol-Injection
Fuel Consumption : (mixed town and out-of-town driving)
Steering : Power-assisted rack-and-pinion
Suspension : Strut suspension (front), 5-link coil suspension (rear) + Stabiliser
Brakes : Ventilated disc (front), drum (rear)
A/C : Fully automatic with digital display
Audio System : AM/FM Radio/Cassette Deck/CD Player/6 Speakers
Power : Windows, front seats and accessory outlets
Seats : Reclinable, front - with lumbar support, rear - fold forward
Door Locks : Integrated door lock switches
Seating Capacity : 5 persons
Interior : Wood-finish dashboard, cloth or leather seats (option)
Exterior : Alloy wheels, roof rails, back-door hatch, electric sunroof (option)
Safety : The design incorporates several safety initiatives, including

The design incorporates as standard a number of technical features which enhance safety :

- anti-lock braking system (ABS)
- front air bag for the driver
- impact-absorbing body
- a third high-mounted stop light

The Nissan Pathfinder was reviewed thanks to the loan of a test vehicle from Saleh Al Hamad Al Mana Co, who will be pleased to arrange a test drive for readers [contact : Product & Marketing Manager, Badih Saikali, or his colleagues (Tel:441334)].

A Closer Look at

BMW 318i

The BMW 318i sports saloon has a new 1.9L straight 4-cylinder engine, which smoothly delivers substantial power, is responsive, and efficient, and complies with the latest strict emission regulations. Furthermore, the road test confirmed the car as a "drivers car" with sporting agility and superb road-holding (during cornering I thought the car was on rails!), thanks to a number of advanced electronic systems which ensure driving stability (see technical specification).

The new BMW 318i offers far more than just beautiful looks, and it will definitely appeal to those who appreciate a car with charisma, that turns driving into an extremely pleasant and thrilling (sensual?), but safe, experience!

SPECIFICATION :

Engine : 1.9 Litre, 4–cylinders, in-line petrol engine, with two-valve technology
Maximum Power : 118 bhp @ 5,500 rpm
Drive System : Rear-wheel
Gears : Manual 5-forward ratios or Automatic 4-forward ratios
Acceleration : 0-100 km/h in 10.4 secondsTop Speed (km/h) : 206 (manufacturer's data)
Fuel System : Petrol-injection
Fuel Consumption : 7.9 Litre/100km (mixed town and out-of-town driving)
Steering : Power-assisted, rack-and-pinion
Suspension Features : Anti-roll bars (front & rear)
Brakes : Ventilated disc (front), disc (rear)
A/C : Automatic, including microfilter
Audio System : AM/FM Radio/Cassette Deck
Power : Windows
Seats : 5 persons
Door Locks : Central-locking, with electronic immobiliser
Seating Capacity : 5 persons
Interior Features : Leather-effect grain facia, flock velour upholstery
Exterior features : Light-alloy wheels
Safety : ***The design incorporates many safety initiatives, including :***

- anti-lock braking system (ABS)
- cornering brake control (CBC)
- automatic stability control + traction (ASC + T)
- front, side & head air-bags for driver and front passenger
- crumple zones front and rear
- side impact protectors and roof crossbar
- a third, high-mounted, stop light
- dual round, extra bright, headlights

The BMW 318i was reviewed thanks to the loan of a test vehicle from Al Fardan Automobiles, who will be pleased to arrange a test drive for readers [Showroom Tel: 477577].

A Closer Look at

SSANGYONG MUSSO 4X4

The Musso is the flagship all-wheel drive vehicle from Ssangyong, Korea's leading maker of 4x4s for more than 40 years. In a class that is quite crowded, the Musso's rugged, yet elegant styling (the award-winning work of Prof Ken Greenley of London's Royal College of Art), distinguishes it from the competition. While some 4x4s focus on either luxury or utility, the Musso is designed to offer the best of both worlds, with a vehicle where luxury meets utility, that's equally at home on and off-road. Luxury features such as : wide, supportive seating with generous leg and headroom, leather interior, wood-grain trim, sun roof, electronically-controlled suspension, and state-of-the-art safety protection, is combined with utility features such as generous cargo space which can be further expanded with the split rear seat folded for maximum carrying versatility. It is supported by Mercedes-Benz engine technology, and impressive on and off-road performance is facilitated by a shift-on-the-fly system, which allows instant switching between 2WD and 4WD at speeds up to 70 km/h, with just a simple turn of a dashboard knob. The Musso will appeal to those who are looking for a 4x4 vehicle which offers a rare blend of : modern design, refined performance, quality engineering, luxury and comfort.

SPECIFICATION :

Engine : 3.2 Litres, 6-cylinders, in-line, licenced from Mercedes Benz
Maximum Power : 220 bhp @ 5,750 rpm
Drive System : Rear-wheel 2WD, with shift-on-the-fly switching 2WD/4WD
Gears : Manual 5-forward ratios or Automatic 4-forward ratios
Top Speed (km/h) : 190 (manufacturer's estimate)
Fuel : Petrol-injection
Fuel Consumption : 13 Litres /100km (mixed town and out-of-town driving)
Steering : Power-assisted rack-and-pinion
Suspension : Double-wishbone (front); 5-link coil-spring (rear)
Brakes : Power-assisted ventilated disc (front), solid disc (rear)
A/C : Standard
Audio System : AM/FM Radio/Cassette Deck/CD Player/6 Speakers
Power : Windows, mirrors
Seats : Reclinable, front - with lumbar support, rear - fold forward
Door Locks : Central-locking, remote keyless entry
Seating Capacity : 5 adults
Interior Features : Wood-grain dashboard, leather seats, sun roof
Exterior Feature : Alloy wheels
Safety : ***The design incorporates safety features & options, including*** :
• rear-window wiper • crumple zones for energy absorption in collisions • door impact beams for superior protection in side collision • front air bag for the driver • anti-lock braking system (ABS) • automatic brake differential (ABD) • electronically-controlled suspension system (ECS)

The Ssangyong Musso was reviewed thanks to the loan of a test vehicle from El Naael Co, who will be pleased to arrange a test drive for readers [Sales Tel: 432111].

A Closer Look at

JAGUAR S-TYPE

Jaguars have a racing heritage - their high performance and reliability won the gruelling 24-hour Le Mans endurance race seven times! - and this impeccable pedigree is continued in today's Jaguars.

The all-new S-Type is the company's first, mid-sized, luxury sports saloon since Jaguar pioneered the market, and were very successful in this class, with the Mark 2 from 1959 and the original S-Type from 1963 until 1968. (Does the shape look familiar?... do I hear mention of Inspector Morse's car ..?) It comes in two engine variations : a 3.0L V6 and a 4.0L V8 . Both efficiently deliver refined power with a superb, responsive performance feel due to various advanced features, including : electronic throttle control and variable camshaft timing.

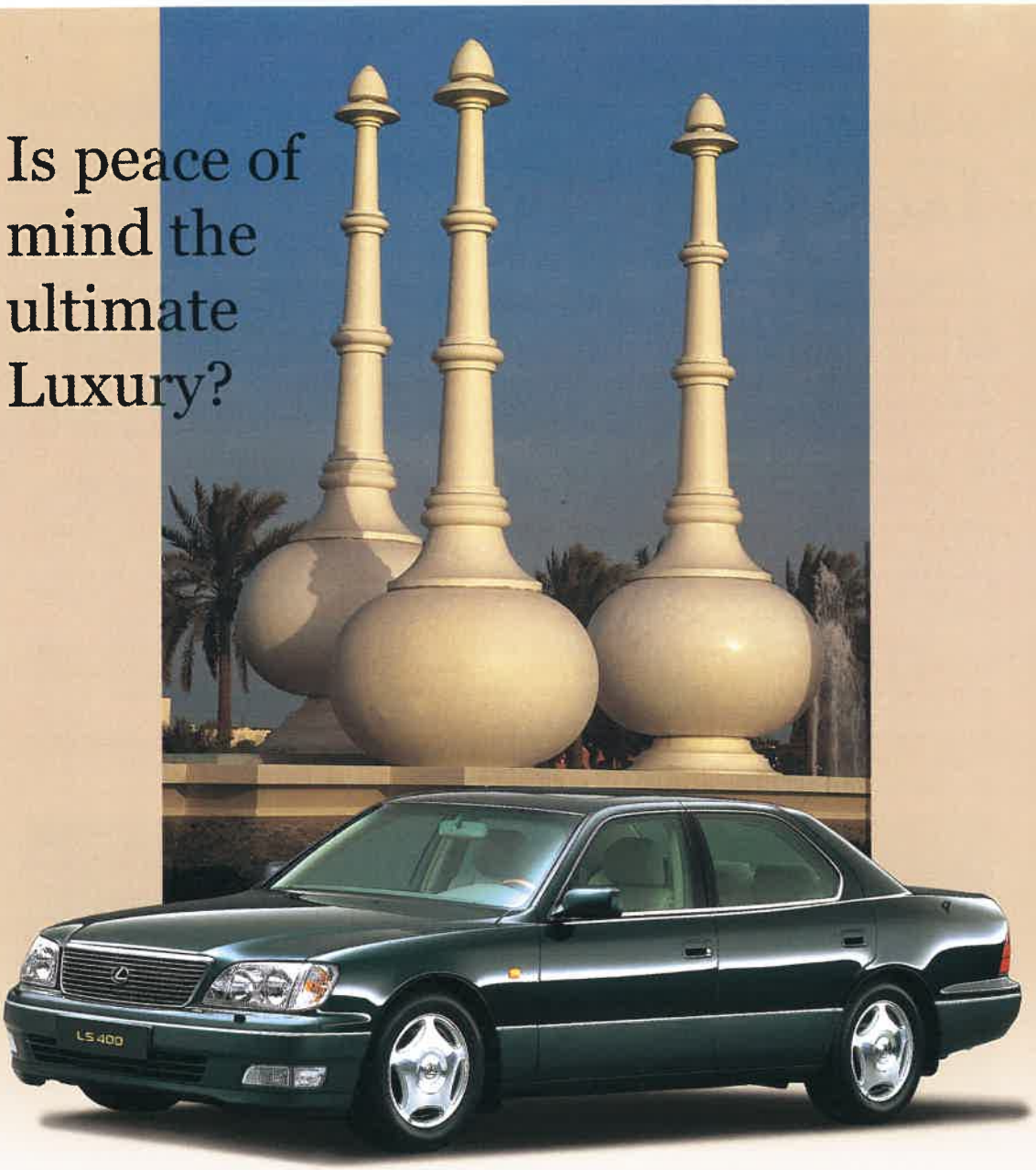
The dramatic styling of the S-Type is modern, distinctive and elegant, with all the essential and unmistakable character of a Jaguar Sophisticated electronic traction control (ETC) ensures outstanding grip and stability, and safety is one of the key elements in the car, with its strong body structure and airbags for driver and front-seat passenger. The spacious interior is elegant, and both front seats have eight-way power adjustment, with finger-tip control, which, used in conjunction with the steering-wheel tilt and reach adjustment, means that the driving position can be easily personalised to suit individual drivers' needs. The dashboard is well laid-out, and driver information, warning messages and useful trip data are displayed on the message centre display panel, situated within the instrument cluster. The entry level model includes an excellent hi-fi radio/tape-player, and a CD player, and gadgets galore are available as options. An advanced dual-zone a/c system allows the driver and front-seat passenger to select their own personal temperature settings, which are maintained fully automatically. The Jaguar S-Type is covered by a three-year, unlimited kilometre, warranty, and service intervals are 12 months or 16,000 kms, whichever comes first. Don't dream it ..... drive it! (as they say in Jaguar ads!) .... and discover the elegant styling and unique blend of refined power, ride comfort and handling, that adds up to a most enjoyable driving experience.

SPECIFICATION :

Engine : 3.0 Litre, V6
Maximum Power : 240 bhp @ 6,800 rpm
Drive System : Rear-wheel
Gears : Manual 5-forward ratios or Automatic electronic 5-forward ratios
0-100 km/h : 7.6 sec
Top Speed (km/h) : 234 (manufacturer's estimate)
Fuel : Petrol-injection
Fuel Consumption : 11.1 litres/100 km (mixed driving)
Steering : Power-assisted, rack-and-pinion
Suspension : Double wishbone, all-round
Brakes : Power-assisted, ventilated front & rear discs
Power : Windows, front-seats electrically adjustable
Door Locks : Central-locking with key or remote transmitter, & security system
Seating Capacity : 5 adults
Interior Features : Various cloth/leather/wood trim options are available
Exerior : Alloy Wheels
Safety : The design incorporates several safety initiatives, including : • 4-channel anti-lock braking system (ABS) • electronic brake distribution (EBD) • electronic traction control (ETC) • front & side air bag for the driver & front passenger

The Jaguar S-Type was reviewed thanks to the loan of a test vehicle from New Cars Centre, who will be pleased to arrange a test drive for readers [contact : General Manager, Michael McClure, or his colleagues (Tel:314685)].

Is peace of mind the ultimate Luxury?



When you feel really safe, relaxing and enjoying the ride came naturally. It's the feeling that tells you peace of mind is the greatest luxury of all, knowing that the LS400 has taken that extra step to redefine and expand the concept of safety. With innovative active safety systems that include VSC (Vehicle Stability Control) and advanced passive safety measures.

LS 400

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DEALER EVENTS

Al Naael Company, local dealers for Ssanyong and Citroen, launched the 1999 Ssanyong Korando. Hussain Abbas, the Sales and Marketing Manager is seen here with the vehicle.

Silverstone Tire dealers held a get-together at the Doha Club. Seen with visiting delegates from Malaysia are Ibrahim Al Muftah (4th from left), the M.D. of Al Muftah Group, (the local distributers) and S.S. Dhir, the Sales Manager.

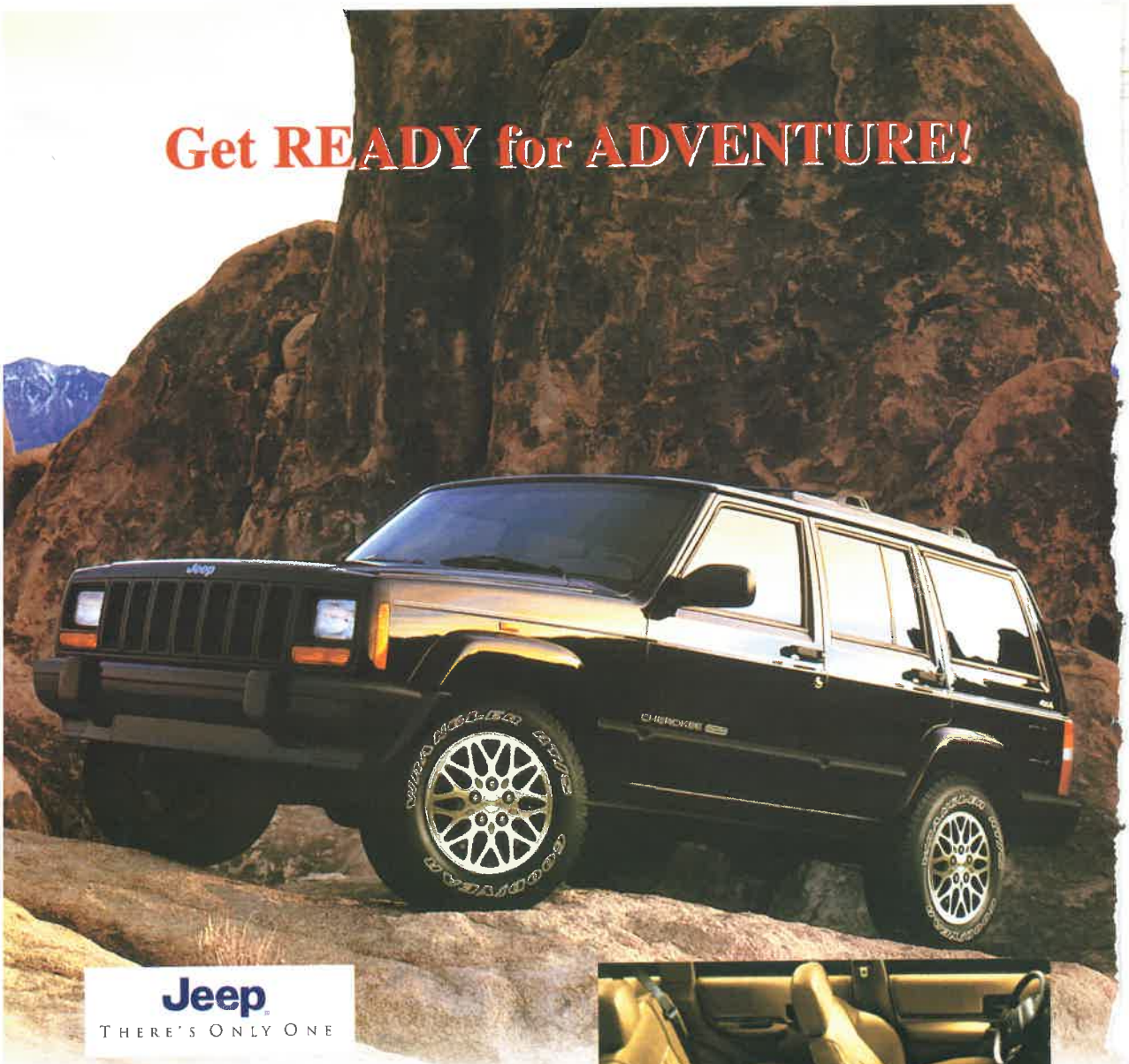
After a gap of about eight years, the French car-maker Renault returned to the Qatar market earlier this year, with a new range of vehicles launched at the showroom of Mannai Corporation, the newly appointed dealers.

Badih Saleh (left) Product and Marketing Manager of Saleh Al Hamad Almana Co., and Keith Elliott (right), Operations Manager at McDonalds hand over the key of a Nissan Pathfinder to the lucky winner of the joint 'Peel and Win' promotion.

New Cars Centre (NCC) donated a SAAB car for the use of Gary McGlinchey, the Golf Pro at the Doha Golf Club, earlier this year. Michael McClure (right), General Manager of NCC, is seen handing over the keys.

Abdullah Abdulghani & Bros. Co. donated a Toyota Ambulance to the Ministry of Public Health for use at Al Wakrah Health Centre. Abdul Rahman Abdullah Abdulghani (M.D. Marketing and Purchase) handed over the keys.

Get READY for ADVENTURE!



Jeep
THERE'S ONLY ONE

To conquer both road and terrain, Cherokee is equipped with a powerful 4.0 litre high-output six-cylinder engine. It produces 190 hp @ 4500 rpm. To harness that power, Cherokee features a strong frame and suspension. Enhancing this capability are standard stabilizer bars and gas-charged shock absorbers that provide crisp handling and a smooth ride.

WARRANTY 3/60 BUMPER-TO-BUMPER

Jeep

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Desert Driving Techniques

Always select a 4WD vehicle for serious off-road driving.

•If possible, travel in convoy with several other 4WDs, but maintain a generous distance between each vehicle.

•Where possible, it is usually safer to follow existing well-worn driving tracks.

•Tyre manufacturers generally recommend inflation pressures should be reduced to improve traction in sand (and re-inflated to normal pressure for on-road use) .

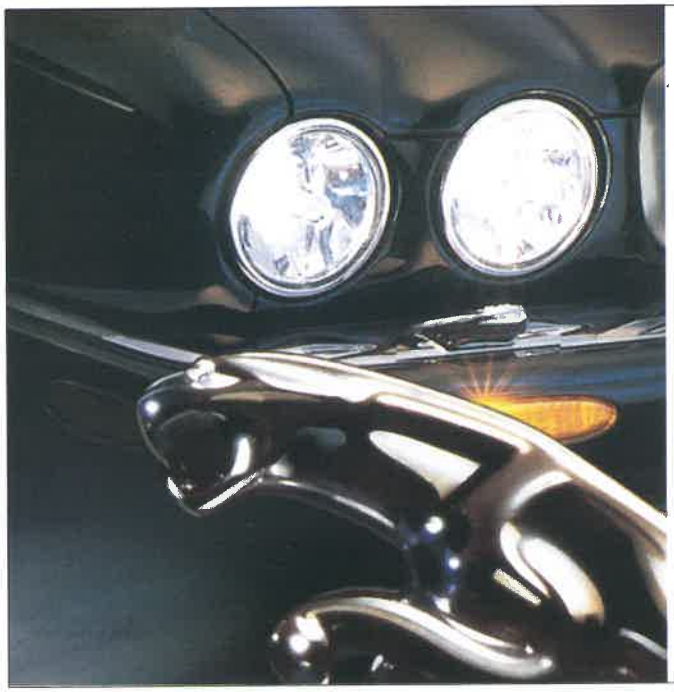
•To achieve maximum traction, where possible, drive in a straight line at a steady speed and try to avoid sudden changes in direction, rapid acceleration and heavy braking.

•Gear selection should be appropriate for the off-road hazards encountered (most commonly, steep sand dunes), the power of the vehicle, the nature of the sand (soft or firm) and the desert drivers skills and experience!

•Try to drive in a straight line, up or down a sand dune. Use an adequate "run-up" for the ascent, be on the look-out for hidden hazards over the peak, and make use of the vehicle's engine braking on the descent.

•Try to avoid the side slopes of dunes, which are potentially much more hazardous because the vehicle is likely to slide sideways, or even to rollover!

NOTE OF CAUTION: 4WD vehicles generally have a higher ground clearance, and sometimes have a narrow track, to enhance their performance in a wide variety of off-road situations. The higher ground clearance and elevated driving position also has the advantage of giving the driver a better view of the terrain, which assists anticipation of problems. However, such design characteristics will result in a higher centre of gravity than ordinary vehicles, which means that they are not designed for cornering at the same speeds as conventional 2-wheel drive vehicles, so, whenever possible, it is advisable to avoid sharp turns or abrupt manoeuvres which can lead to loss of control, or even vehicle rollover!



Jaguar '99.

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JAGUAR

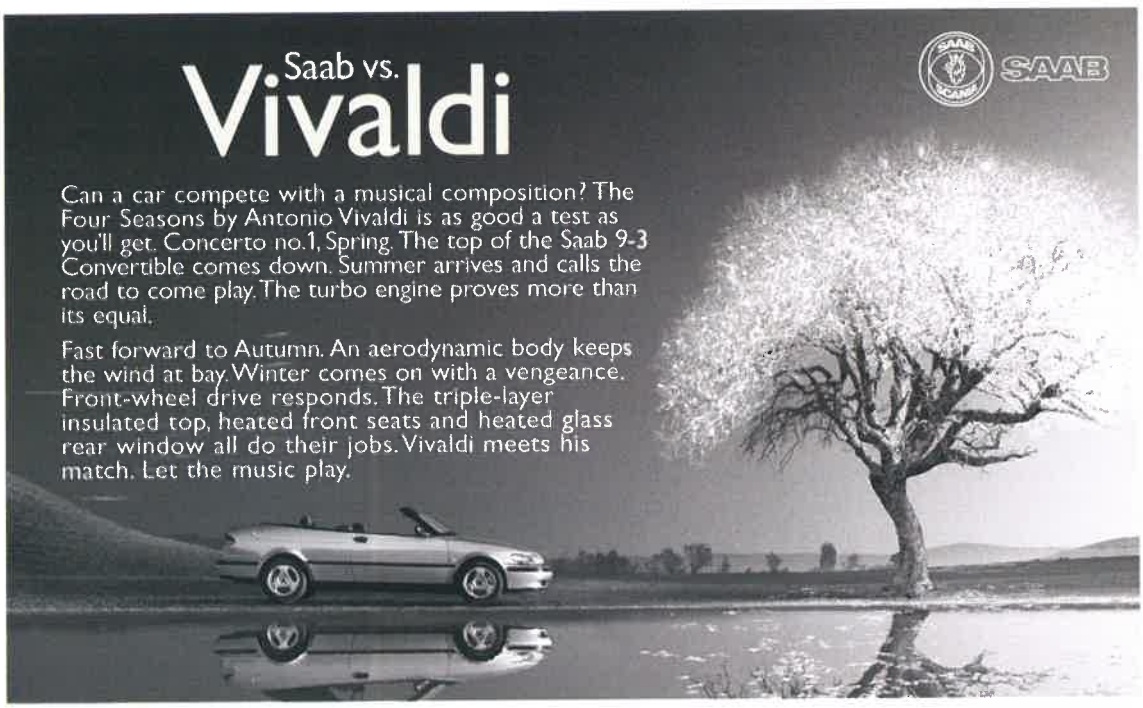
DON'T DREAM IT. DRIVE IT.

Saab vs. Vivaldi

SAAB

Can a car compete with a musical composition? The Four Seasons by Antonio Vivaldi is as good a test as you'll get. Concerto no.1, Spring. The top of the Saab 9-3 Convertible comes down. Summer arrives and calls the road to come play. The turbo engine proves more than its equal.

Fast forward to Autumn. An aerodynamic body keeps the wind at bay. Winter comes on with a vengeance. Front-wheel drive responds. The triple-layer insulated top, heated front seats and heated glass rear window all do their jobs. Vivaldi meets his match. Let the music play.



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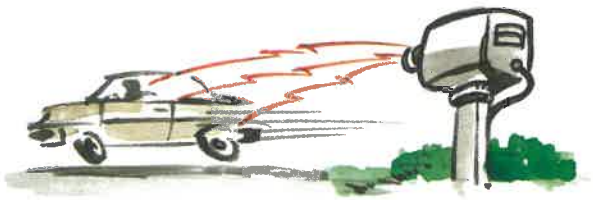
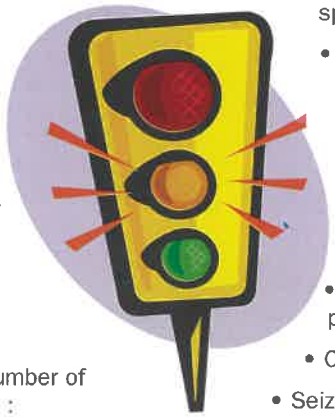
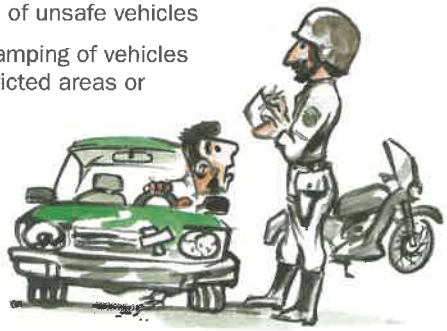
Road Safety Initiatives to CURB TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS



According to Qatar's Traffic and Patrol department, the country already has more than 250,000 vehicles in use (which equates to a very high statistical ratio of about 1 vehicle for every 2 people!), and there are around 15,000 extra vehicles on the roads each year. Fortunately, more than 80% of motorists in Qatar generally abide by traffic rules and regulations, including speed limits. However, the department is trying to make the remaining percentage of motorists adhere to road safety regulations, and to curb reckless driving, which will minimise road traffic accidents and enhance the safety of all road-users. To this end, the department has introduced a number of road safety initiatives, including :



- Media campaigns to raise public awareness of road safety
- Annual traffic week - to promote road and pedestrian safety
- Radar surveillance to record speed-limit violations for prosecution
- Cameras at major junctions to monitor motorists who jump red lights
- Traffic management by police patrols
- Monitoring of road users by traffic police
- Enforcing the use of seat belts (at present, on main highways)
- On-the-spot fines and arrests
- Seizure of unsafe vehicles
- Wheel-clamping of vehicles parked in restricted areas or haphazardly
- Undercover informants



So motorists should now be sure to "belt-up", and take extra care to avoid any traffic violations!

In the last edition of Marhaba the horse power of Grand Vitara 2.5, V6 was wrongly quoted as 106 Hp. It should have read 142, we regret the error.

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This limited edition model features a dressed-up interior and exterior of the excellent standard performance 4WD model Trooper. The comfortable ride and luxury feeling leads the user to a world of freedom.

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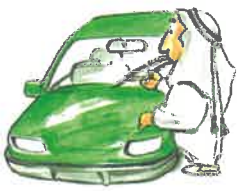
MOTORING
Do's & Dont's

DO remember to keep your driving licence, vehicle registration, road permit and insurance documents valid and readily available. If you're stopped and asked to produce them, and you don't have them to hand (originals, not copies), Qatar traffic law provides for a QR200 on-the-spot fine!

DO check for "no parking" signs and kerb markings, and be aware that many inside lanes or hard shoulders on main roads are for emergency parking only. Vehicles parked in restricted areas, or haphazardly, blocking lanes and obstructing traffic, are likely to be wheel-clamped or towed away. Fines are in the range QR300 to QR1,000!

DO wear seat belts at all times. This is now compulsory, for both the driver and front-seat passenger, on main roads outside towns where the speed limit is 120 km/h or more, and common sense says that you should also "belt-up" on short journeys in town too!

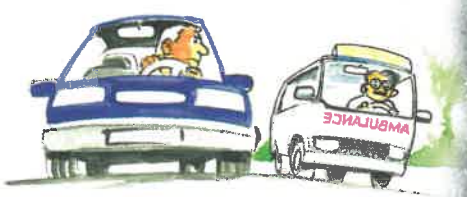


DON'T drive off-road into the desert unless you have a prepared 4WD vehicle* and : you know the area and are used-to driving in sand or you have someone experienced with you or you are travelling in convoy with several other 4x4 vehicles (*Ref: Off-Road Driving Preparation Check-List, Marhaba Issue 14)

DON'T forget to check your windscreen-wipers regularly - rubber wipers disintegrate in the heat, and, even if there's no rain, you may need to use them with the screen-washer to clear dust from the windscreen.

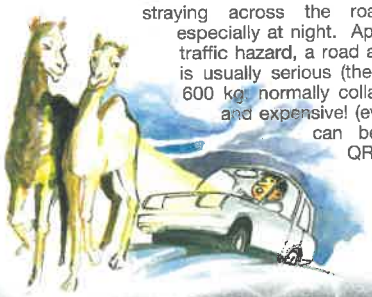
DO be on the alert for tyre problems - variable road surfacing and the hot climate can quite often lead to blow-outs!

DON'T forget to carry reserve fuel/oil/coolant for the vehicle, and a cool-box of sufficient food and beverage (especially drinking water) for the driver and passengers, if you are going off-road into the desert.



DO watch out for emergency vehicles needing through-passage. Because of wide intersections and low buildings, even in town it can be difficult to judge the direction of sirens!

DON'T forget to watch out for camels straying across the roads outside towns, especially at night. Apart from the potential traffic hazard, a road accident with a camel is usually serious (the entire weight, up to 600 kg, normally collapses on the bonnet) and expensive! (even "average" camels can be valued at around QR100,000!!)



DON'T misjudge your speed. Glance at your speedometer regularly, especially on open-roads, where, with the absence of road-side buildings or trees "rushing past", you can be travelling much faster than you realise.

An Insight Into The USED VEHICLE & TRADE-IN MARKET

A sustained reduction in crude oil prices earlier this year, and the consequent economic downturn and cut-back in consumer spending, led to a significant slowdown in the demand for brand new vehicles and a corresponding upturn in the sale of used vehicles (which, in turn, has aided the sale of spare parts and accessories, because used vehicles tend to require relatively more of these items).

A survey of the used vehicle market has identified a fast-growing sector, with distinct sub-sectors, including :

- a small number of used vehicle operations associated with new vehicle dealers
- a large number of traders in used vehicles (with no affiliation to new vehicle dealers)
- used vehicles bought and sold through advertisements in newspaper classified columns and on supermarket, company and other notice boards!

Space limitations preclude covering all three aspects of the market in one issue of Marhaba Motoring, so here we focus on used vehicle operations associated with new vehicle dealers. To give you an idea of the sort of facilities available in Qatar, we visited one of the showrooms. In future editions we plan to report on other aspects of the used vehicle market and visit other dealers.

A quick look at one example of what's on offer

One of the prominent companies in the used vehicle and trade-in market is Al Mana Auto Trade, located on Ahmed Bin Ali Street, along from the TV roundabout. A visit to the spacious, all-new, premises revealed a very professional operation that provides customers with three distinct services :

- brand new Nissan vehicle sales
- trade-in of any type of used vehicle against a brand new Nissan vehicle
- quality used vehicle sales

Wissam Al Mana, Managing Director of Al Mana Auto Trade, summarised the various aspects of his business as follows : "Although we are a Nissan sub-dealership, our volume of sales is high, and our aim is to maintain strong customer loyalty to our quality brand, something we achieve through Nissan's reputation for reliability and exceptionally strong used market value."

"Apart from outright purchase of a brand new Nissan vehicle", he added, "Al Mana Auto Trade is an official trade-in facility, and our experienced personnel are ready to professionally appraise any make or model of vehicle to trade-in against a new Nissan."

Marhaba wanted to know about the used vehicles on display in the showroom and Wissam explained:"For customers seeking to purchase any of our used vehicles, we offer a professional appraisal report on its condition, and we point out any technical problems. Our policy is to thrive off volume, so profit margins are kept to a

minimum in order to offer quality used vehicles that are exceptional value-for-money."

Knowing that there can be a fairly complex trail of paperwork when you trade in a vehicle or buy a used one, we asked if the company provides customers with any kind of support. "Yes", we were told, "Last, but not least, we try to relieve customers of inconvenience by assisting with financing, registration, and insurance, and even transfer of ownership of their old vehicle; we want to provide total customer satisfaction."

Marhaba will be visiting other used vehicle dealers in future issues.

You may find this a helpful listing of some of the used Vehicle Dealers

Abdullah Abdulghani & Bros Co. Trade-In Vehicle Division	437538
Al Fardan Automobiles Approved Used Cars	477577
Al Mana Auto Trade	888618
Al Mana Used Cars Co.	663904
El Naael Company	432111
Jaidah Motors & Trading - Used Car Division	353472
Mannai Trading - Used Car Sales	412555
Middle East Traders - Used Car Sales	428111
New Cars Centre - Used Car Sales	314685
Saleh Al Hamad Al Mana Co.	441334

Diary Note

The Middle East International Motor Show is scheduled to be held at Dubai World Trade Centre from November 10 to 14, 1999. The annual event always attracts plenty of exhibitors who display the latest range of vehicles, as well as various automotive items, and is usually well-attended by visitors from the region.

Get the highest price for your used car when you trade it in for a brand new Nissan from Al Mana Auto Trade.

NISSAN

SUNNY

PRIMERA

MAXIMA

TERRANO II

PATHFINDER

PATROL

99

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Checking A Used Vehicle

Before You Buy

Some guidelines and tips were detailed extensively in Marhaba issue 14.

Here is a condensed list of check points:

• If you are considering a major financial outlay, it is well worth taking the vehicle to a specialised testing workshop equipped with computerised fault diagnosis.

•Check that : lights, indicators, windscreen wipers, dip-switch, interior light, a/c, windscreen washer, horn,window winders, power switches, and any other accessories, are all working.

•Switch on the ignition and start the engine running. It should start easily and the oil-pressure light, and other engine warning lights, should go out almost immediately.

•When the engine is warm, if it is in reasonable condition, it should tick-over evenly and accelerate smoothly, all without producing strange noises or emitting blue or black smoke from the exhaust.

•Cooling system leaks may be indicated by dirty red or blue-green coolant stains, which you can best check for when the radiator is cold.

•Check for uneven tyre tread pattern wear that could indicate track misalignment.

•A test drive is essential to check the car's mechanical condition. During the road test, make sure that there is not undue free movement of the steering-wheel, the clutch engages smoothly and fully, without slipping, and the brake pedal should be firm when depressed and be capable of efficiently stopping the vehicle in a straight line.

Good Luck and Safe Driving!!

TYRE TIPS

& Routine Maintenance Checks

For your motoring safety and economy

Always have tyres in good condition, however good a driver you are!

• Vehicle and tyre manufacturers recommend inflated pressures for the front and rear tyres, which should be strictly adhered to. Over or under inflation can affect vehicle handling and result in loss of control as well as excessive tyre wear and damage.

• Pressure should be correctly adjusted as part of your pre-driving check, when the tyre is cool (it is normal for tyre pressures to increase up to 8 psi or more when the tyre becomes hot from driving).

• While you are routinely checking the tyre casing, take the opportunity to remove small stones, and any other hazardous objects, embedded in the tyre tread, to minimise the possibility of cuts or a puncture.

• All four tyres (and the spare!) should be of the same construction type, whether radial or cross-ply, but they should also, for maximum safety, be of the same make, size and tread pattern.

• To ensure smooth running, and to assist long tyre life, it is essential that individual wheels should be "balanced" on tyre-fitters wheel-balancing equipment, especially when new tyres are fitted to the rims.

• While you are routinely removing potentially hazardous objects from the tyre tread, take the

opportunity to check tyre casings for visible external damage caused by knocks on kerbs or driving over potholes, and, if you do spot any bulges or holes, get the tyre examined by a specialist.

• Specialist knowledge, technical skills and experience is readily available here in Qatar at any roadside 'punctuary', with "know-how" which is not only impressive, but remarkable value for money!

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QALCO

Qatar's Own Lubricants

Qatar Lubricants Company (QALCO), a local company in operation only since May 98, has rapidly established a significant presence and is gaining an ever-increasing share of the extremely competitive lubricants market in Qatar. With around 67 imported brands in the local market, many of them international big names, it is remarkable that QALCO's locally-made products have already achieved approvals from many prestigious clients, including Mercedes-Benz and Volvo; has been awarded government tenders; is supplying to the military, industrial and commercial sectors; and is increasingly prominent in the retail consumer market.

The QALCO plant is ideally located near the Mesaieed port, which facilitates both the import of bulk raw materials by sea - top quality base oils from Esso and additives from Lubrizol - and also the export of finished products to other countries, which, to date, already includes Yemen, Sudan and Jordan!

According to Denis Buckley, Managing Director of QALCO, the increasing acceptance of the company's products can be attributed to "the high standards and quality control achieved by rigorous testing in their own professionally-staffed, fully-equipped laboratory, the prestigious independent assessments and on-going product approvals being received, and the growing reputation for extensive technical support."

Lubricants - The Basics

The purpose of lubricants is to reduce friction and minimise wear by separating surfaces with a film of oil, without causing drag.

The manufacture of lubricants basically involves the blending of base oils with additives, usually with the application of heat, to formulations dependent upon the planned use of the end-product in the automotive, commercial, industrial or marine market sectors.

Viscosity is the most important physical property of lubricants, and the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) classifies engine oils by viscosity grades. Mono-grade oils, eg. SAE 40, are based on the viscosity at 100 degrees Centigrade only, whereas multi-grade engine oils, eg. 20W/50, have the advantage that they are 'thin' when the engine is first started from cold and the oil pumped from the sump needs to reach moving parts quickly, and they get 'thicker' as the engine warms-up and the oil needs to withstand high temperatures and retain its lubrication properties to protect the engine, even if its performance is used to the maximum. These days multi-grade engine oil is usually specified by most vehicle manufacturers, who also generally recommend preferred brands that have proven performance based on stringent testing. A widely-used reference standard is set by the American Petroleum Institute (API), who classify engine oils in terms of required performance in selected engines operating under controlled conditions to simulate service in the field.

A good example of a high-performance, multi-grade engine oil is QALCO's new flagship brand, MT Super 20W/50, with the prestigious API SJ/CF top-level performance classification, where the SJ relates to the highest rating approval for petroleum engines, and CF relates to the highest rating approval for diesel engines. Its multi-technology formulation, includes : a sophisticated additives package, with detergent, dispersant and anti-foam additives to resists the formation of deposits and sludge, which helps to keep the internal engine parts clean; an anti-oxidant to ensure long-life of the oil; and polymers to maintain the viscosity at an acceptable level even in hot climatic conditions, which enhances lubrication performance and ensures superior protection against engine wear. "We have undertaken rigorous tests of our new generation flagship brand, and it has proved to be comparable with the best available", says Buckley.

Apart from its technically-proven superiority, Qatar's own lubricant has been found to be so good in practice, even under the most arduous conditions, that it has achieved an enthusiastic endorsement by Qatar's own national and international rally driving star, Nasser Saleh Al Attiyah.

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SUZUKI

VEHICLE TROUBLE SHOOTING

The following check-list may assist you to deal with minor road-side problems

PROBLEM	POSSIBLE CAUSES	SOLUTIONS
When starter is activated		
• There is no response	Battery lead disconnected	Check battery lead connections
	Battery terminals oxidised	If oxidised, scrape clean, re-tighten and, when carrying-out routine maintenance, smear with petroleum jelly
	Battery discharged	Connect a charged battery to the discharged battery with jump leads and 'jump start' the vehicle.
	Battery will not store charge	Replace the battery
• Warning lights go dim and starter turns, but very slowly	Battery terminals not tight Battery terminals oxidised	Re-tighten battery terminals Scrape clean if oxidised and retighten
	Battery discharged	Connect a charged battery to the discharged battery with jump leads and 'jump start' the vehicle
• The engine fires but then stops, or is difficult to start when cold	Starting procedure incorrect, or fuel supply is inadequate or ignition is faulty	Check driver's handbook for start-up tips Check fuel pump pressure is reliable Check: • ignition leads • contact points • plugs
On the open road		
• Vibrations	Tyres incorrectly inflated Tyres incorrectly balanced Tyres damaged	Check/adjust tyre pressures. Have a specialist tyre dealer check the wheel-balancing and condition of the tyres.
• Abnormal white smoke from the exhaust	Mechanical fault: cylinder head gasket may be blown	Stop the engine and consult a specialised engine mechanic

OIL AND TIRES DO MIX!

The Al Muftah Group is now famous and well-established as one of the leading business groups in the Qatar market. However, the group was founded quite modestly in 1963, with a single pioneering tire and spare parts showroom, and over the years it has successfully grown from strength to strength. Now, in addition to trading, it covers many diverse activities, from manufacturing fibre-glass products to operating a major department store at Al Sadd.

The first specialised tire showroom was setup on the Airport Road in 1968, with the TOYO (Japan) distributorship, and more showrooms, located in prime areas, have been added since. In recent years, the Division has added to its fold the Agencies for other reputed brands of tires, such as SILVERSTONE (Malaysia) and LASSA (Turkey).

In 1987 the distributorship for lubricants manufactured by Abu Dhabi National Oil Co (ADNOC) - an ISO 9002 company - was obtained. ADNOC products conform to the highest performance level (API and MIL ratings) and, as a result of maintaining high quality and competitive prices, effective promotion, a dedicated sales staff and a vast dealer network, has become established as one of the leading brands in the Qatar market, both in the retail sector and as an approved supplier to government departments and major transport and contracting companies.

Tire & Lubricants Sales Manager, Mr. S.S. Dhir, attributes continuing business success to finding products and services that provide true customer satisfaction, and maintaining quality and consistent service - the underlying tradition of the Al Muftah Group since it was founded over 35 years ago!

• Coolant temperature abnormally high or coolant boiling and escaping from radiator	Engine Overheating: • fan belt loose/broken • coolant may be leaking • water pump may be faulty • cylinder head gasket may be blown	Stop the engine and let it cool • check/adjust fan belt tension • check/replace hoses & clips • consult a specialised engine mechanic • consult a specialised engine mechanic
• Smoke under bonnet	Electrical short-circuit	Stop the vehicle, switch-off the engine, disconnect the battery
• Oil-pressure warning light comes on - when cornering - when braking - at idle speed - at cruising speed	Oil level is too low Oil level is too low Oil pressure is low Oil pressure is too low	Top-up oil in engine sump Top-up oil Change oil and oil filter Stop, consult engine specialist
• Engine lacks power :	Dirty air filter Fuel supply fault Spark plug gap(s) incorrect Spark plug(s) faulty Ignition-timing incorrect	Clean or replace air filter Check fuel in tank and filter not blocked Check and adjust plug gap(s) Replace with plug(s) in good condition Consult engine-tuner
• Engine idle-speed erratic or engine stalls	Engine normal smooth idling upset by: - air leak - ignition fault	Intermittent fault may need to be identified & rectified by a specialised engine-tuner or a computer-diagnosis check
• Direction indicators not flashing	Bulb blown Fuse blown Feed-wire disconnected Faulty earth Flasher unit faulty	Replace bulb Replace the fuse Re-connect the feed wire Clean and re-fit earth wire to vehicle body Replace flasher unit
• Headlights do not work	Bulb blown Circuit fuse blown Feed wire disconnected Faulty earth	Replace the bulb Replace the fuse Re-connect the feed wire Clean and re-fit earth wire to vehicle body
• Wipers do not work	Wiper blades stuck Fuse blown Wiper motor faulty	Release the blades before use Replace the fuse Consult an auto-electrician

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AL ATTIYAH MOTORS & TRADING	KIA	600081
AL FARDAN SERVICE CENTRE	BMW, LAND-ROVER	601177
AL MANA MOTORS	FORD, LINCOLN, MERCURY, PEUGEOT	600800
DOHA AUTOMOBILES	PROTON	600896
DOHA MOTORS & TRADING CO.	CMC	600896
DOHA MARKETING SERVICES CO.	HONDA, VOLVO	601117
EL NAAEL CO.	CITROEN, SSANGYONG	606611
GULF AUTOMOBILES & TRADING	PORSCHE, AUDI, VW	600655
JAIDAH MOTORS & TRADING	CHEVROLET, ISUZU	600000
MANNAI TRADING CO.	CADILLAC, GMC, OPEL SUBARU, RENAULT, DAEWOO	600111
MIDDLE EAST TRADERS	ROLLS-ROYCE, BENTLEY	600911
NASSER BIN KHALED & SONS	MERCEDES	600444
NATIONAL CAR CO.	HYUNDAI, MAZDA	602266
NEW CARS CENTRE	JAGUAR, SAAB	353016
NEW TRADE ENGINEERING	ALFA ROMEO, FIAT, LANCIA	435653
QATAR AUTOMOBILES	MITSUBISHI, GALLOPER	601995
SALEH AL HAMAD AL MANA CO.	NISSAN	600167
TALEB TRADING	DAIHATSU	600227
TEYSEER SERVICE CENTRE	SUZUKI	600708
UNITED CARS - AL MANA	JEEP	600644

Below is one example of a Vehicle Dealers Service Centre.

Marhaba Motoring will spotlight other Vehicle Service Centres in future issues.

EL NAAEL COMPANY backs-up its dealership with high quality after-sales service and the supply of genuine spare parts at its recently-opened, purpose-built service centre in the Salwa Industrial Area. The body-workshop (Street 31, Tel:603211) deals with all makes of vehicles, while the mechanical & electrical workshop (located separately at Street 33, Tel. 606611) specialises in the dealers' Ssangyong & Citroën vehicles.

El Naael

CITROËN

SSANGYONG

MUSSO

Classic Cars and Motor Cycles as COLLECTORS ITEMS

Falko Hoffmann is well-known to many residents of Qatar as the General Manager of the Doha Club, but what is not so well-known is that Falko is also a classic car enthusiast! It may be one of Doha's best kept secrets, but he is the proud owner of a completely restored 1981 Mercedes Benz 500 Coupe, which he purchased in 1991 in Doha as an average-condition used car for QR60,000, and since then, has gradually had restored to virtually showroom condition. The complete restoration project has been meticulously recorded and certified by various local, specialist, workshops he has used, including :

- scraping the car body-shell to bare metal, de-rusting and treating with anti-rust.
- full body-shell re-paint (12 coats!).
- carrying out a thorough workshop inspection and all necessary repairs, and fitting all spare parts required to completely and authentically re-condition it.

Falko regards his "pet project" rather like an unusual, but very gratifying, hobby which over the years has cost serious money, but at least he has something tangible and valuable to show for it, so he considers the outlay worthwhile. Also, he points out that his completely restored Mercedes 500 Coupe is the SLC, 8-cylinder, 5.0 Litre version, of which only 1800 were made, mainly for the US market. Just a few of these luxury models were imported into the Gulf region. Consequently, there is no doubt that such a rare breed is a classic collector's item, for which there will always be a demand, should he wish to sell... and, although he is open to offers, it is very obvious when speaking with him that, above all else, he still enjoys owning and driving such a unique vehicle!

Fred Finlay has spent a career maintaining and repairing aeroplanes, which has taken him and

Three years ago, Fred's beautiful 1927 BSA was just a pile of rusted parts

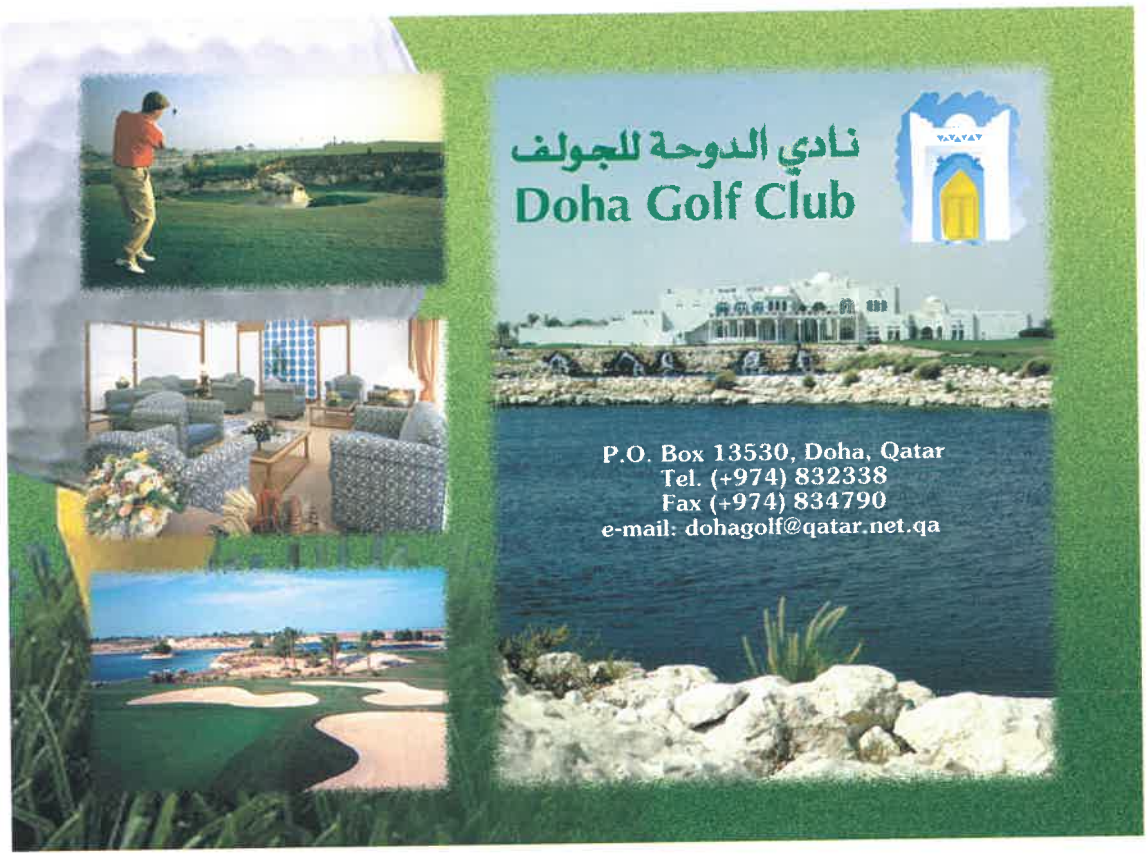
his wife Pam to many countries, including: Kenya, Brunei, Hong Kong and Bahrain.

For the last 13 years, they have been residents of Qatar, with Fred employed first with the Qatar Amiri Flight and now with Qatar Airways. As a couple they have both become well-known in the expatriate community, especially amongst the golf-playing fraternity!... but not so widely known is Fred's other passion, which is restoring vintage motorcycles!

A project recently completed is the total restoration of a 1927 BSA, with a 349cc side-valve engine, which even has authentic acetylene gas lamps!

This labour of love started in 1996 when the vintage BSA motorcycle was purchased as a relic of the past in numerous boxes of incomplete, mostly rusty component parts, in need of total restoration or renewal. Now, after thousands of man-hours of painstaking work, very often requiring parts to be specially-made from home-made 'patterns' based on studying data and illustrations in the original handbook and parts book, Fred is the proud owner of an authentically restored 1927 vintage motorcycle, in full working order... much to the amazement of those who originally considered him rather strange, even eccentric, for purchasing so many boxes of "scrap"! Certainly something different for popping down to the shops!!

Not content with successfully restoring the 1927 BSA, Fred has now embarked on an even more ambitious restoration project, in the form of a motorcycle of even older vintage - a JAP 770cc V-twin engine, 1916 Coventry-Acme!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A great place to visit
• Fish market restaurant
• Coffee shop
• Grill corner
• Swimming pool cafeteria
• Beach with shaded cabanas
• Sun loungers
• Changing rooms
• Children's rides
• Giant water cycle and much more!
Open daily from 12 noon to 10 pm, Tel. 869151, 865178, Fax 865202
Last boat to the Island leaves 8:30 pm

What To See

AL BIDA PARK
Along the Corniche, near to the National Theatre, this new park has a number of attractions including a cafeteria and small group of shops. There is a water feature and, for kids, a half-pipe for skateboarding and roller-blading.

AL KOOT FORT
Also know as the Doha Fort, this Moorish-style fort is a reminder of the Turkish occupation during the nineteenth century. It is located at the corner of Doha's Jasim bin Mohammed and Al Qalaa Streets, near the old souq area. It is open to the public daily, except for Saturdays and Friday Mornings. Admission is free.

AL KHOR
The 'pearl port' of Qatar, Al Khor is a small town some 60 km north of Doha. Until the 1940s it was a thriving port and the centre of the pearl diving industry. There is now an attractive Corniche overlooking the startlingly blue waters of the bay, and extensive public gardens which are popular with locals.

ANIMAL MARKET AND FALCONRY SOUQ
Sheep and camels are on sale here, as well as caged birds, fowl and domestic pets. During the falconry season, (October-March) you can also see these birds of prey being offered for sale or look at the equipment used in the sport. The falconers will be only too delighted to tell you about the birds and to have their photographs taken.

AL SHAQAB STUD
Owned by HH The Emir, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, this extensive stud farm has gained a worldwide reputation for its many champion horses, which include Imperial Phanilla, the World Champion Mare 1994, and Qatar Champion Mare 1994.
Morning tours can be arranged through Arabian Adventures on Tel. 361461.

AL ZUBARA
This fort was built during the reign of Sheikh Abdullah Bin Qassim Al-Thani in 1938 as a police post. A small four-bastion structure around a courtyard, it was used by the military until well into the 1980s. Two kilometres beyond the fort are the ruins of various other coastal fortifications, and there are a number of deserted fishing villages in the area.
The fort is open to the public daily, except for Saturdays and Friday mornings, and admission is free.

CAMEL RACES
Camel races are held frequently at the main race track at Shahaniya. There is a large spectator stand but most locals choose to follow the race in vehicles, adding to the excitement of the spectacle. Details of when races are being held should be obtained from one of the local tour companies.

CORNICHE
Doha's beautiful Corniche is one of the finest in the Middle East. Stretching for 7 km, it is popular with those locals and tourists who wish to keep fit and those who just want to take a gentle stroll and admire the scenery.

ETHNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM
The museum is in a traditional, twentieth century Qatari house which has been restored and provides a look at life in Qatar before the oil era. Signs explain the function of the various rooms and their importance in the life of the family.
Of particular interest is the building's wind tower, which is one of Qatar's few remaining examples of this form of traditional Gulf architecture.
Located off Grand Hamad Street, the museum is open Sunday to Thursday from 9 am to 12 noon and 3 pm to 6 pm, and on Fridays from 3 pm to 6 pm. It is closed on Saturdays. Admission is free.

KHOR AL-ADAID

Know also as the Inland Sea, this is an area of outstanding beauty at the southeast tip of the country. However, it can only be reached by means of a 4-wheel drive vehicle.

From the mouth, the sea surges west in a wide channel and then curves north to create a vast shallow tidal lake.

Although you can go there for the day, the most pleasant way is to camp overnight - the grandeur of the crescent shaped sand dunes is best appreciated at sunrise or sunset, when the sun's shadows highlight their beauty.

An expedition to the Inland Sea should not be undertaken lightly and you should always have an experienced driver with you. However, a number of companies are now arranging excursions to this beautiful area. Check wit your hotel.

LOCAL TOUR COMPANIES

Some places of interest may be difficult for the tourist to visit without some assistance such as transport or special opening arrangements. There is now a number of tour operators who can make arrangements on your behalf, and who offer trips to the Inland sea, camel races etc.

Arabian Adventures Tel 361461

Qatar Holidays Tel. 495585.

SEALINE BEACH RESORT

Day visitors are welcomed at this resort, near Mesaieed 55 km south of Doha. QR 20 entrance fee on Thursdays and Fridays, plus QR 20 for use of the beach and pool facilities. For further information phone 772722.

ORYX FARM

The oryx, a protected species in Qatar, was at one time considered virtually extinct. There is now a large and healthy herd of oryx kept on a private estate near Shahaniya and, although it is necessary to obtain permission to visit, a number of local tour companies are arranging trips. Check with your hotel.

PHILATELIC DISPLAY

Stamp collectors may be interested to see the comprehensive display of local stamps on view at the General Post Office in the West Bay area. Opening hours are 7 am to 1 pm and 4 pm to 6 pm daily, except for Friday.

POST OFFICE MUSEUM

Next to the Souq Post Office is the Postal Museum with exhibits from the early days of the service here. Alongside the old sorting shelves, rubber stamps, scales and equipment are the old books where clerks recorded by hand the number of sacks of mail arriving from overseas, their weight and city or origin. You can also see the old designs of post box, and their evolution from the old English-style Victorian red pillar boxes to the current small yellow boxes mounted on a post. There are some stamps on display, as well as international awards and certificates. It is open from 4pm to 6pm each evening, except Friday.

Philatelists may also enjoy a visit to the main General Post Office in West Bay where there is an exhibition of Qatari stamps, and a Philatelic Bureau where you can buy special issues - old and new - over the counter, or register as a member and open an account to automatically receive all the first day covers, wherever in the world you live.

QATAR NATIONAL MUSEUM

Built in 1901 as the palace of Qatar's then ruler, the late Sheikh Abdullah Bin Qassim Al-Thani, the Fariq Al-Salatah Palace now houses the Qatar National Museum. Just a short distance from Doha's modern waterfront, the Corniche, it is acknowledged as one of the finest museums in the region, winning the prestigious Aga Khan Award for restoration and rehabilitation of Islamic architecture in 1980.

The old palace is the ideal setting for the visitor to view the intricately carved wood and plasterwork which typifies the architecture of the Gulf.

It also houses some fine examples of furniture, kitchenware, costumes, jewellery and perfumes; and some rather interesting relics of the medical profession - circumcision equipment, bleeding cups and branding wires!

The museum is open to the public 9 am - 12 noon Sunday to Thursday and 3 pm - 6 pm everyday except Saturday. Tuesday afternoon is reserved for families only. Admission is QR. 1.

THURSDAY AND FRIDAY MARKETS

If you are going out to the Central Market on a Thursday or Friday, then stop off at the weekend market on your way. As you turn off the Salwa Road to the Central Market, the stalls are on your right, just off the roundabout. Most are under shade, and have lighting after dusk. There are two main bays of stalls surrounded by a variety of small shops, some with handicrafts and others with falconry equipment and falcons. Stallholders sell household goods, clothes, shoes, material and novelty items amongst others.

THE VEGETABLE, MEAT AND FISH MARKETS

The 'Central Market' can be found just out of town on the Salwa Road, and the whole area is a hive of activity, especially in the morning - although the vegetable souq is often very busy in the afternoon too!

Freshly caught fish are on display from a variety of fishmongers, so walk round and compare the quality and prices before you buy - or check for the most colourful or unusual displays if you just want photographs! Fish vary from the small and colourful to the definitely large - including the occasional shark. There are two main fish halls, and the meat market is also nearby.

In the same area is the retail vegetable market, where colourful locally grown fruit, vegetables and flowers share stall space with imported agricultural products from around the world. The range of prices is government controlled, but it pays to look around. Again it provides a good photo opportunity but as with all locations around town, you should ask permission before you take photographs and avoid taking pictures which include any local ladies.

The wholesale market is nearby, where fruit and vegetables are sold by the box rather than by the kilo. Here you will see local traders bargaining for goods as well as families who find it cheaper to buy this way.

WAKRA

South-east of Doha, and only a short drive from the capital, Wakra was once Qatar's most important fishing and pearling village. It contains some of the finest examples of traditional architecture and is dotted with old minarets, forts and wind towers.

ZOO

Doha's Municipal Zoo is situated on the outskirts of Doha, about half an hour's drive from the town centre. There are plenty of shaded viewing areas as well as extensive play facilities for children. The zoo is open from 3 pm to 9 pm daily except for Saturdays.

TRADITIONAL COFFEE HOUSE

At the opposite end of the Corniche, near to the Ras Abu flyover, is a traditional coffee shop and restaurant, just recently completed and proving to be popular amongst residents and visitors.

WEAPONRY MUSEUM

The Weaponry Museum in Al Laqta on the outskirts of Doha is well worth a visit. There is an extensive display of gold swords from the region, traditional curved daggers or 'khunja's', andold weapons and armour dating back as far as the 16th Century. Each piece is clearly labelled in Arabic and English with details of its origin. Presentation swords are also clearly labelled. There are canon, long-rifles and swords of all kinds, as well as a number of paintings and photographs relating to the weapons and their former owners. You need to be part of an official tour to visit this museum, so contact one of the tour companies; they include it in their itinerary.

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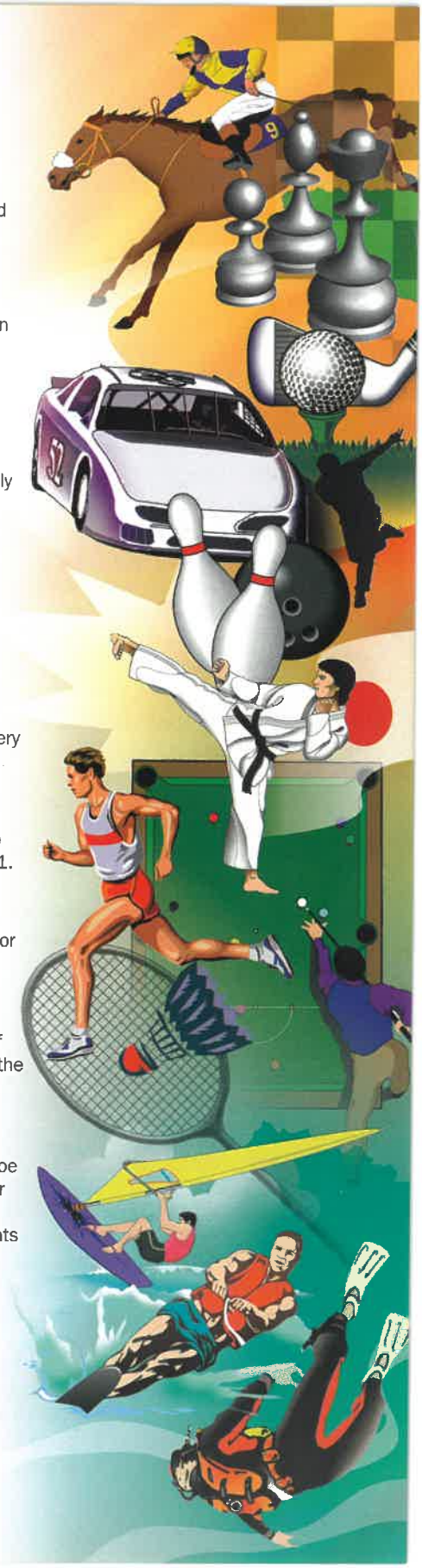
What To Do



AFTERNOON TEA

Ramada Hotel - the popular Palm Garden serves freshly made teas and coffees as well as a full array of light pastries and tempting desserts.
Doha Marriott Gulf Hotel - Arabian style lobby café serves a variety of delicious snacks and sweets, coffee, tea and a wide selection of home-made cakes.
Sealine Beach Resort - A fine selection of French pastries are served in the lobby lounge from 2 pm - 10 pm.

AIKIDO

Classes for adults are held at the Sheraton Doha Hotel & Resort. Tel. 836363.

AMATEUR DRAMATICS

Doha Players Theatre. Amateur dramatic group presenting approximately five productions per year, plus visiting artists. Members enjoy weekly coffee mornings on Thursday 11 am - 2 pm, and monthly socials. For information on membership, contact office secretary on Telephone 871196.

ARNIS (The art of stick fighting)

Classes for adults are held at the Sheraton. Tel. 836363.

BADMINTON

At Qatar Badminton Club. Contact Mr. Siddiq, 6 - 10 pm, Tel. 883293.

BALLET AND JAZZ DANCING

Classical Russian Ballet - Classes available for children ages 5 - 14 every Monday 3 - 6 pm at Doha Club. Call Mrs Isabelle Kaan, Tel. 428351.

Ballet classes available for children at Sheraton Doha Hotel. Call Mrs Isabelle Kaan, Tel. 428351.

Jazz & Modern Dance for teenagers Thursdays, 9 - 10 am at Doha Club (Classes resume in November 99). Call Mrs Isabelle Kaan, Tel. 428351.

BILLIARDS & SNOOKER

Qatar Bowling Centre offers nine full-size snooker tables, three full-size billiard tables and two table tennis tables, and equipment is available for hire. Open daily from 10 am - 11 pm. Admission is QR 10 for non-members. Tel. 443355.

BOAT TRIPS

Small pleasure boats offer evening trips along the Corniche at a cost of QR 10 for adults, QR 5 for children. Join the boat from any point along the Corniche after 5 pm in the evenings.

BOWLING

Qatar Bowling Centre is a modern, purpose-built centre which offers thirty two lanes, together with all the associated amenities, such as shoe hire. The centre is open daily from 10 am - 11 pm. Admission QR 10 for non members. Tel. 443355.
Sheraton Doha Hotel and Resort offers bowling facilities to non-residents as well as hotel guests. Tel. 854444, ext. 4015.

CERAMIC SESSIONS

"Ceramics Galore" Ladies and Children's classes. Lots of sessions available. For further information, Tel. 833874or 5531259.

CHESS

Qatar Chess Federation. Tel. 351740.

CINE-CLUB

French films at Sofitel Hotel most Wednesdays at 8 pm. For further details, call Sofitel Tel. 435222 or French Cultural Centre on 671037.

DECORATING

Interior Design classes for beginners will be given in bi-weekly classes in a series of monthly courses beginning October 15th.
Aspects of decorating such as space planning, lighting, color coordination, window treatments, carpeting and floor covering. Both morning and afternoon classes will be available.
Please call Betty Coyne on Tel. 448 467 or 5507162 for more information.

DHOW TRIPS

The oldest type of sailing ship in use, and relatively unchanged over the years, the dhow is an integral part of the region's culture, having played a major role in the prosperity of Qatar's maritime community. Today it is possible to take a leisurely trip around Doha Bay in one of these traditional craft. They can also be hired privately for parties. Check with your hotel for details of trips, or contact Walid at Qatar Holidays on Tel. 495585, Bleep 283908, Mobile 527225.

FISHING TRIPS

Doha Marriott Gulf Hotel 20ft Yamaha boat, equipped with outriggers, fish finder, rods, etc. Rates are QR 150 for one hour, QR 500 for four hours and QR 800 for eight hours. Please call 495520 for further details.
Doha Club has a 25 foot fishing boat for hire for trips and picnics at a rate of QR 500 per day (10 am - 4 pm). For inquiries and details, contact the Marina Foreman at Doha Club on Tel. 423400 or 418822 ext. 243.

GOLF

Sheraton Doha Hotel and Resort offers the use of its Golf Practice Range and 5-hole Pitch & Putt. Club hire is available and non members are welcome. Tel. 836363.
Doha Golf Club - 18 hole championship course, 9 hole executive course, world class practice facilities, putting and chipping greens. Golf tuition available by qualified PGA pros. Call 832338. Non members welcome.

GUITAR

Doha Marriott Gulf Hotel private lessons at a charge of QR 900 for 10 hours or QR 100 for 1 hour. Call Cristina Badiali on 495520.

HORSE RIDING

Although there are no regular facilities available for use by visitors, the Rayyan Racing & Equestrian Centre is currently looking at the issue of opening their facilities to visitors. In the meantime, experienced riders can call 805901 to see if they can arrange a ride.
Sealine Beach Resort - Camel & Pony rides on the beach.
Tel. 772722 for details.

KARATE / TAEKWANDO / SELF DEFENCE

Karate lessons at Doha Club with Captain Mohammed Naggar on Sunday, Tuesday & Thursday from 4 - 5 pm for beginners & 5 - 6.30 pm for advanced pupils. QR 150 per month. Also special lessons for ladies and men can be arranged. Call Capt. Naggar on 418822 ext 250 or 354342.
Karate classes at Doha Marriott Gulf for children, Wednesday & Saturday 5.30 - 6.30 pm. QR 120 per month for non-members. Call Cristina Badiali on 495520.
Karate classes for children and adults (Beginner/Advanced). Tel. Sheraton Doha Hotel & Resort 836363.
Taekwando lessons with Captain Hatim at the Doha Club every Saturday & Tuesday 4 - 6 pm. QR 150 per month.
Tel. 418822 ext 225 for more information.

MASSAGE AND REFLEXOLOGY

At the Doha Club, members QR 65, guests QR 85. For bookings, please contact the Fitness Centre at the Doha Club, Tel. 418822 or 329273.

KEEP FIT

Ladies Callanetics - Doha Club Tennis & Fitness Centre Multi-function room every Monday and Wednesday 5 pm to 6 pm.
Call Mary on 418822 ext. 225 or 329273.

Gymnasium - Doha Club Tennis & Fitness Centre is open to the public from Sundays to Fridays 1 pm - 9.30 pm. Ladies Timings are: Sun,Tues, & Thurs noon - 2 pm. Special morning session is now available from 10 am - noon. Only QR 200 per month or pay QR 20 per visit.
Call 418822 ext. 225 or 324528.

Gymnastics - Classes for children at Sheraton Doha Hotel & Resort. Tel. 854600 for details.

Keep Fit - Doha Marriott Gulf Hotel, Wednesdays and Saturdays, from 6.30 - 7.30 pm. QR 20 for non-members. Call Cristina Badiali, on 495520 for info and bookings.

Ladies Callanetics - Doha Fitness & Tennis Centre. Mondays and Wednesdays 5 - 6 pm. Call 418822 ext. 225 or 329273.

Ladies Aerobics & Stretching - Doha Club Nautilus Gym every Sunday and Wednesday 10 - 11 am. Tel. 418822 ext. 240 or 329273.

Step Aerobics - Classes are held at the Fitness Centre, Sheraton Doha Hotel & Resort. Tel. 854600 for details.

MOTOR SPORTS

At Qatar Motor Sports Club. Contact David Stone. Tel. 434896.

NATURAL HISTORY GROUP

Talks usually on the first Wednesday of each month (October - June) at the Doha English Speaking School (DESS) Drama Room. Field Trips normally on the last Friday of each month. Membership QR 20 per year (children free). For information or membership contact David Gillespie, Tel. (Res) 684731.

RUGBY

Matches, training and mini-rugby. Tel. 683771. Training on Sunday and Tuesday. Match Day Friday.

RUNNING

Qatar Hash House Harriers meet every Monday approx. one hour before sunset. For more information, please contact Nicky on 673829.

SAND BUGGIES

Desert Quads can be hired from Sealine Beach Resort.
Tel. 772722 for details.

SAILING

Doha Sailing Association Open to anyone interested in sailing. Dinghies and windsurfers available. Clubhouse open daily. Location: Ras Abu Abboud Street between the Oasis and Doha Marriott Gulf Hotels. Contact the Secretary on Tel. 439840 between 2 and 5 pm daily.

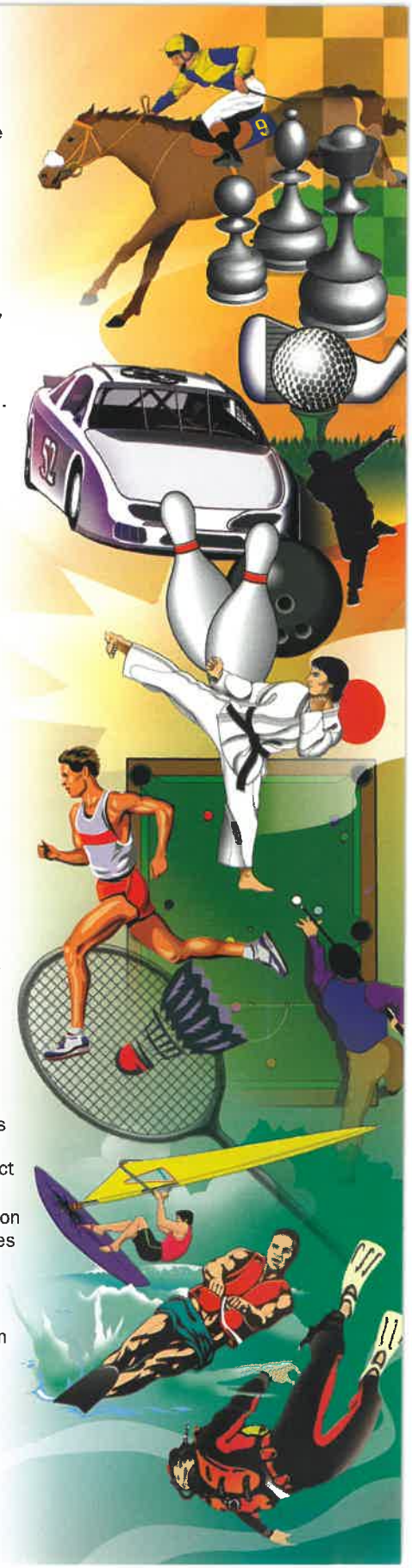
The Regatta Company Sailing School Courses range from an introduction to sailing to specialised international level coaching. The school operates from the Sheraton Doha Hotel & Resort with international coach Mike Lawton. Tel. 424577.

SCOTTISH ACTIVITIES GROUP

Information regarding traditional Scottish activities can be obtained from John Kennedy, Tel. Off. 320997. You don't have to be Scottish to join!

SCUBA DIVING & TRAINING

Pearl Divers - Tuition, equipment rental, computerised air filling and medical first aid course are just a few of the services on offer.
Tel. 449553.



Coral Diving School - BS-AC school offers friendly personalised tuition at times to suit you. Qualifications recognised worldwide range from basic skills to advanced diving, plus specialist courses such as Chartwork and Navigation. Contact Mel Bayliss on Tel. (Res) 675141.

Doha Sub-Aqua Club - Branch of British Sub-Aqua Club. Diving for members every week. Club night every Tuesday. Training sessions by arrangement. Tel. Membership Secretary 447298 (Res).

SIGHTSEEING

Qatar Holidays offer organised excursions - Inland Sea (Desert), Dhow Trip, City Tour, North of Qatar Tour. For further details and prices please contact Walid, Bleep 283908, Mobile 527225.

Arabian Adventures Organised excursions. Tel. 361461, Fax 361471.

SLIMMING

Weight Loss Classes. Join Jill Stafford for her KEEP COUNTING classes every Monday at the Doha Club from 5 - 6 pm or every Wednesday from 9.30 - 10.30 am. If you are interested, just call Jill on Tel. 478201.

STAMP COLLECTING

Experienced collectors and beginners are all welcome to join the Philatelic Club on Al Sadd Street. It only costs QR 100 per year. For more information, call the club on Tel. 323292 or fax them on 324435.

SWIMMING LESSONS

Al Dana Club has a UK-qualified swimming teacher (Arlene Green) for children and ladies. For information, contact Al Dana Club on Tel. 834700.

TENNIS & SQUASH

All the major hotels offer facilities for tennis.

Khalifa Tennis & Squash Complex - 13 tennis and 2 squash courts - all international standard and available for hire. Tel. 409666.

Doha Fitness and Tennis Centre - Tel. 418822 ext 225 or 324528 for coaching and bookings.

Doha Club - squash courts available for booking. Tel. 418822.

Ramada Hotel - has resident lady tennis coach, lots of junior and ladies classes available to non-members. Contact Ramada Hotel, Tel. 417417.

Doha Marriott Gulf Hotel - Squash Social every Tuesday 6 - 8 pm. QR 7 for non-members. Tennis Social every Saturday 6 - 9 pm. QR 20 for non-members. Private lessons, QR 300 for 5 hours, QR 75 for 1 hour. Group lessons, Adults QR 30 per hour, children QR 25 per hour. Call Recreation Manager, Cristina Badiali, on 495520 for info and bookings.

Personal Tennis Instructor / Coach - ready to train you at your compound or at various places around Doha. For more information, please contact Tarek, mobile 5801983 or bleep 2261983 or e-mail taremb@hotmail.com.

WOMENS GROUPS

American Women's Group meets second Tuesday of each month at the Ramada Hotel.

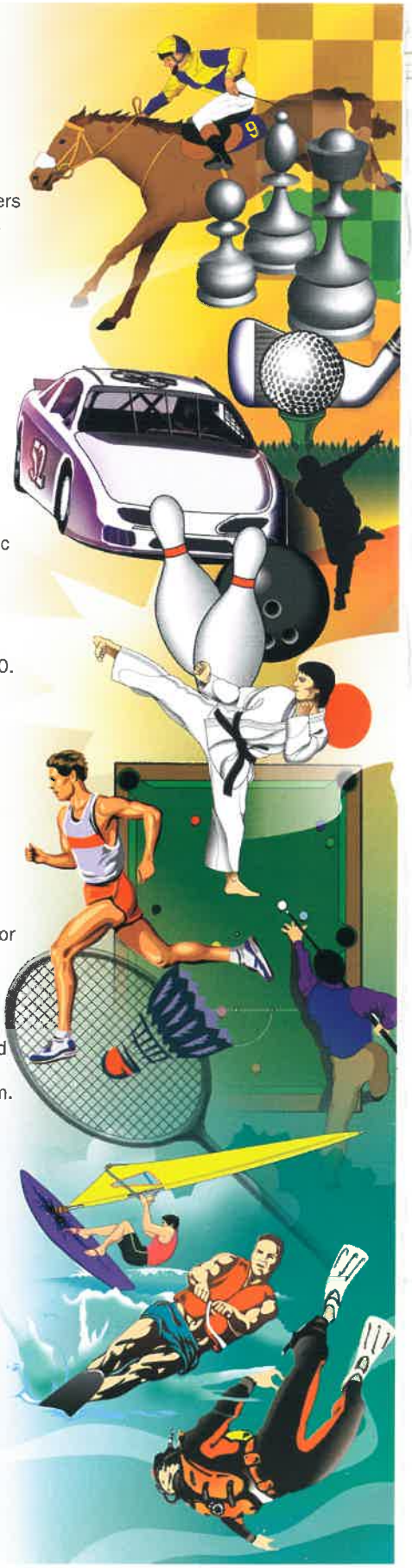
Tuesday Group meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month at the Ramada Hotel.

Silver Dhow Association Social group for working ladies meeting monthly at Al Dana Club. For further information, contact Julie McLaughlin on 441742 or Tricia Dixon on 837165 or Sue Morris on 688410.

WATERSPORTS

Doha Marriott Gulf Hotel - Water Skiing QR 25 per 15 minutes. Tel. 495520 for details.

Sealine Beach Resort - Range of activities available including Jet Skis. Tel. 772722.



مركز الملكة للأسنان
THE QUEEN DENTAL CENTER

We would like to introduce you to both The Queen Dental Center and our Dental Insurance scheme. Our services cover a wide range of dental curative services under the supervision of a highly qualified elite of permanent staff at the Center. Their services are augmented by visiting doctors and consultants, specializing in all branches of dental science.

The team comprises:

- **Dr. Jeiroudi,** *an American consultant of Orthodontics and a former Professor of Orthodontics at Loma Lind University, California and American Board certified.*
- **Dr. Al-Sherbini,** *a consultant specialising in the treatment of gum and oral diseases and a professor at Cairo University.*
- **Dr. Al Hassan,** *a British specialist of Oral Surgery and member of the Royal College of Surgeons, London.*
- **Dr. Farid,** *a consultant in gum treatment with credentials from Cairo University, Manchester University, UK, Harvard University, USA. Also specialising in dental implant from Sweden.*
- In addition, the Center has four Hygienists and Dental Assistants, graduated from Romania, India and Philippines.
- Dental porcelain and orthodontics lab, run by technicians graduated from Romania and Jordan.

These staff work as an integrated team in our center which is situated in a three-storey building comprising:

- Five dental and gum treatment rooms
- Main sterilisation room
- Porcelain and orthodontic dental laboratory
- Oral x-ray and support services room.

The Queen Dental Center was also the first practice in Qatar to offer Annual Dental Insurance

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- Tooth fillings
- Root canal treatment
- Fluoride application
- Extraction
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Tel. (+974) 860024, Fax (+974) 860023, Pager 2250024, Mobile 5506062

Toby's Adventureland

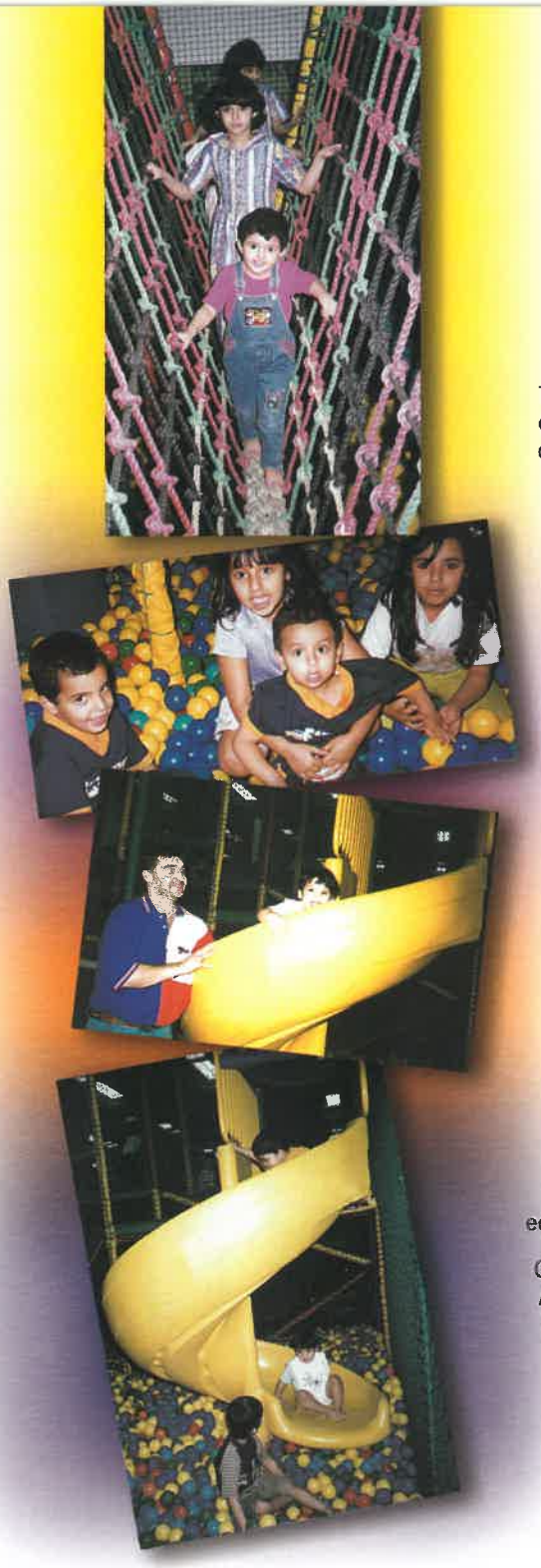
Colourful slides, ropes to swing on, masses of soft bright balls to wade and crawl through and ladders to climb; a children's adventure paradise. That's Toby's Adventureland in The Mall.

Not only is it a safe, airconditioned indoor playground for kids suitable for any time of day, all-year-round, it's a supervised adventureland where you can leave your youngsters in safety whilst you shop or go to a meeting!

There's no lower age limit for toddlers; even young babies can benefit from the stimulus of exploration at Toby's once they can crawl - but the under-fours (who have their own separate play area) have to be accompanied throughout their playtime by an adult family member or carer. Older kids (up to twelve years of age or five feet tall, whichever comes first!) can be left on their own, and Toby's encourages visits by school groups, which receive special discounts.

There are party facilities at Toby's Adventureland for special birthday celebrations, and morning sessions for toddlers on Sundays and Tuesdays when the little ones enter for half price and the mums can have a cup of coffee and a chat!

Toby's Adventureland offers children a wealth of unstructured play which encourages imagination and cooperation yet is closely supervised by a group of first-aid trained staff who ensure the kids can let off steam without endangering themselves or others!



Toby's Adventureland epitomises everything that is good about play. The concept of 'Soft Play' from which Toby's developed, was first outlined by Rupert Oliver, founder of The Play Company in the 1970's. Since then, the idea has been developed for use by all children, but has been of added benefit to those with some mental or physical disability, who have 'special needs', and could easily damage themselves on standard 'fixed' equipment. That's why Toby's offers free admission to handicapped children and their care assistants.

One of the main reasons for the success of Toby's Adventureland is that its design has been based on the observations and preferences of children themselves! The business was established by Micky J. Pierce, whose son, Toby, used to love adventure playgrounds when he was little - especially the indoor kind with bright colours, soft-play equipment and plenty of variety.

Children love playing at Toby's Adventureland - and parents can leave their offspring there, safe in the knowledge that they won't be allowed to wander off - no child left on its own is allowed out until collected by an adult! You can shop in peace, even go to watch a film uninterrupted in the nearby cinema!

For more information on Toby's Adventureland, call Anne or Les on 678877

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Account(s) summary. Account balance. Funds transfer between QNB accounts. Account statement (full or mini). Cheque book request. Pre-registered payments.

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75116 Paris
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Fax: (+33) 1 53230070

Hospitality Round-Up

Since the last edition of Marhaba (in March '99), there have been a number of changes in the hotels and clubs around town. In fact, it's been a little like musical chairs - with new chairs and a new tune! Many of the facilities in the country were first opened around twenty years ago, and are now undergoing major renovation and refurbishment work. There have been a number of management changes too!

Gordon Mackenzie has made a welcome return as General Manager of the Ramada Hotel. He was here from 1989 to 1996, returning first to the hospitality business in his native Scotland and then moving to Dubai. When he left Doha, plans for the renovation of the hotel were under discussion; he returns to find a number of those renovations completed, and others just coming to fruition. He also has a number of new ideas to further enhance the hotel's facilities. Extensive re-styling and refurbishment of the rooms and suites is now almost complete, and guests re-visiting the hotel will be pleasantly surprised by the light and airy appearqance not just of the rooms, but also of the corridors - which remain the same size but appear to be much larger!

The facilities of the old Cabana club have been demolished over the last year, and more extensive club facilities have been built with a landscaped garden and water features. Membership applications are being welcomed now. The tennis courts have been resurfaced; there are new squash courts and table tennis facilities; racket ball courts have been introduced for the first time; there are new changing rooms for men and women; a new jacuzzi and steam room; a golf driving range; a children's play area with its own splash pool; a new restaurant; a new state-of-the-art Aquarius gymnasium and fitness centre, and a new swimming pool - this time with an overflow feature to cut down on ripples and waves, and a shaded soft drinks bar in the shallow end. Hotel guests will be able to gain access to the Cabana Club directly from the hotel's first floor, whilst members will have a separate entrance, direct from the Club's designated parking area.

Watch out for the re-introduction of colourful theme nights in the coffee shop, the opening of two new restaurants in the hotel, Friday breakfast surprises, and a series of dinner concerts. The Ramada is proving it has a lot to offer!

The Sheraton Doha Hotel and Resort has seen some changes too! Staff there have welcomed Claudio Nardini as their new General Manager, replacing Gerhard Foltin who had been with the hotel since its opening in 1982. Claudio was previously GM at the Sheraton Gulf Hotel and takes with him a wealth of experience both with the Sheraton hotel chain and in terms of the needs and expectations of Qatar and its visitors. He has moved around Doha Bay, but his philosophy remains the same: providing comfort, quality and excellent service to his guests, listening to their needs and responding to both compliments and suggestions. A number of the former Sheraton Gulf staff members made the move with him, and together with newly appointed senior executives will be sure to maintain the hotel's fine reputation. As part of the Starwood Hotels Group, the Sheraton Doha participates in the 'Starwood Preferred Guest' Programme, which offers benefits and discounts in 650 hotels in 70 countries; it not only allows members to collect valuable 'points' but also keeps their room preferences on computer. If, for example you don't like feather pillows, or you dislike heights and prefer to be on a lower floor, that information is stored for future reference!

Over the summer, the Sheraton Doha held its first children's sports camp - a week-long affair which offered participants coaching in a number of sports alongside daylong individual and team activities. It is hoped that the camp will become a regular feature, being held several times a year - probably in spring, summer and winter.

The Sheraton Doha meanwhile continues to host regular corporate and private functions and exhibitions, both in Al Majlis auditorium and conference area, and in the new Al Dafna Hall Conference Centre, where Qatar will host the Islamic Conference Organisation's Summit in the year 2000.

Whilst the Ramada hotels are now part of the huge Marriott empire, the Marriott name itself appears in town for the first time this year with a change in management contract for the Qatar National Hotels Company property which was formerly managed by the Sheraton and known as the Sheraton Gulf. The new Doha Marriott Gulf Hotel is currently undergoing extensive refurbishment. In addition to renovation of the rooms, the hotel is having a new lobby, separate ballroom entrance, and additional restaurants. The work, which covers all public space, guest rooms, systems and amenities is due to be completed in 2001. For dining and entertainment, the Doha Marriott will have a wide selection of restaurants and lounges, including a lobby lounge, pastry cafe, theme bar, garden cafe and marina restaurant. The hotel will also feature a business centre, an executive lounge and an airline/car tour/rental desk. Improved services include teletext facilities in each room which allow guests paying by credit card to check out without needing to go down to the reception desk! Joe Batshon is the new General Manager, and the Doha Marriott is set to make a name for itself around town!

Marriott International Inc. has over 1,800 operating units in the US and 53 other countries and territories. It addition to operating and franchising hotels and suites under nine brand names, it also operates time-share resorts, provides furnished corporate housing and has a number of other interests. It has approximately 135,000 employees world wide. Here in Doha, the Marriott is also taking over the management of Palm Tree Island in Doha Bay, a recreational facility offering a well-appointed sandy beach with changing facilities, a kiddies splash pool, children's entertainment, a restaurant and cafe all in a pleasing landscaped environment just a five-minute boatride from the Corniche.

The Hotel Sofitel Doha Palace, which recently renovated all its rooms and suites, is carrying out alterations to its 12th floor to open two new outlets. One will be La Ville - Mediterranean Restaurant; the other will be The Old Manor - New York Steak house. Both the outlets will be unique in terms of architecture and decor, offering customers a varied choice of cuisine.

The hotel's regular disco nights are proving to be popular amongst many nationalities, and the hotel hosts regular conferences, exhibitions and product launches as well as private and corporate dinners.

Sofitel, which is part of the French ACCOR Group, is promoting a 'Business Travel Programme' called 'BTP' by offering companies and travel agants very special rates at the 506 hotels in the Sofitel, Novotel, Mercure and Ibis chains, mostly located in the major towns of 54 different countries. This programme is ideal for guests who travel regularly world-wide and are looking for accommodation solutions wich guarantee quality, reliability and advantageous financial conditions.

The Doha Club is continuing with its renovations, which include a new VIP reception and waiting area, and a re-vamped

main entrance and lobby-lounge. A new multi-purpose hall with the capacity to seat 500 will add substantially to the club's facilities. Most of the work should be completed between November and the end of the year, and will include a fine dining area downstairs, as well as an extended cinema/TV room. On the upper level, the remodelling will result in two additional restaurants/function room, and the new seating area will also open onto the adult's library.

A new poolside lounge will complement the extended facilities of the Health and Fitness Centre, which will incorporate an exercise room, whirlpool, separate men's and ladies changing rooms and a Turkish Bath. the first floor of the Fitness Centre building will be occupied by a card and snooker/billiards room.

Meanwhile Al Dana Club, at the Khalifa international Tennis and Squash complex, is opening its new banqueting hall this September. The hall has its own separate entrance, leading to and from the main car park of the complex, ensuring adequate parking is available for the largest of functions. The hall is suitable for formal banquets, informal buffets, wedding receptions, parties and corporate functions. A stage is available, and the hall has its own sophisticated sound and light system.

What's on Doha Club

Doha Club has always been known for its distinctive flair and oriental and international fare. Major renovations are currently underway, during which every effort is being made to keep up to the usual highest standards.

Whether you need Fine Dining, a special event, Coffee Shop convenience, the tastiest cakes from our famous trolley or ice creams in the lobby, our chefs and our staff are all dedicated to creating memorable gastronomic experiences for you, your family, friends and business associates.

SEPTEMBER

4th - 10th	Asia Week (lunch and dinner) in the main restaurant
24th - 30th	Chicken & Game Hen menu (lunch and dinner) in the main restaurant

OCTOBER

9th - 15th	Italian Week (lunch and dinner) in the main restaurant
23rd - 29th	Chinese Gastronomic Week Festival (lunch and dinner) in the main restaurant

NOVEMBER

10th - 21st	British Week — with typically British lunch and dinner in the main restaurant. Check with the Club for their calendar of events.

WEEKLY EVENTS

Every Wednesday	Family Breakfast in the Coffee Shop, 9.30 am- 10.30 am, serving English and Continental breakfasts
	Family Beach Barbeque 7 pm - 10.30 pm. QR 60 adults, QR 30 children below 12 (starts October)
Every Friday	Family Breakfast in the Coffee Shop, 9.30 am - 10.30 am, serving English and Continental breakfasts
	Family Lunch Buffet in the main restaurant, 12 noon - 2.30 pm. QR 60 adults, QR 30 children below 12.
DAILY	Businessman's 3-Course Lunch 12 noon - 2.30 pm in the Coffee Shop. Menu changes every day and at only QR 30 it's great value!
	3-Course Dinner 7 pm - 9 pm in the Coffee Shop. Menu changes every day and at only QR 30 it's also great value!
ALWAYS AVAILABLE	**Cakes and pastries** Viennese, German, Danish and French gateaux. Enjoy in our lobby with attentive service or, like any of our menus, you are welcome to order to take away.
	Ice Cream Peruse our expanded lobby menu and you certainly won't feel the heat outside. Pity you can't take these away!
	Take-away available from all restaurant & coffee shop menus

NON DOHA CLUB MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO ALL THE ABOVE

Promotions may change, so please check when booking.
Restaurant reservations, please call 417855 or 418822 ext. 209.

What's on Sheraton Doha

HOTEL & RESORT

SEPTEMBER

15th - 30th	Far East Noodle promotion	Laffan

OCTOBER

1st - 20th	Strudel promotion	Atrium Lounge
5th - 20th	Octoberfest	Laffan
15th - 30th	Shrimps promotion	AlShaheen
31st	Halloween	Laffan

NOVEMBER

1st - 20th	The Delight of Chocolate	Atrium Lounge
10th - 21st	Pub Grub – British Week promotion	Laffan
15th - 30th	The Delight of Chocolate	Atrium Lounge
15th - 30th	Moghul Mystery — The Best of India	Al Shaheen
20th	Thanksgiving	Al Shaheen

WEEKLY EVENTS	Lunch	Dinner	Venue
Every Friday	International Buffet	Family Buffet	Al Hubara
Every Saturday	French Buffet	Chinese Cuisine Pasta Night	Al Hubara La Veranda
Every Sunday	Lebanese Buffet	Italian	Al Hubara
Every Monday	Mediterranean Buffet	Carvery	Al Hubara
Every Tuesday	European Buffet	Arabic	Al Hubara
Every Wednesday	Italian	Seafood Pasta Night	Al Hubara La Veranda
Every Thursday	Thai Buffet	European	Al Hubara

Promotions may change, so please check when booking.
For restaurant reservations, please call 85 44 44

What's on Ramada Hotel

SEPTEMBER

28th & 29th	Gerry & The Pacemakers. Dinner and Show, Giwana Ballroom. Doors open 7.30 pm, dinner 8.15 pm, show 9.45 pm. Please contact the Food & Beverage Dept. for further details and tickets.

OCTOBER

11th	The Merseybeats. Brilliant night out, dinner and show Giwana Ballroom. Please contact the Food & Beverage Dept. for details and tickets.

NOVEMBER

15th,16th & 17th	Chas & Dave in concert during the British Week. Constantly in demand, their 25th anniversary tour brings you a fantastic evening's entertainment with a bubbling repertoire of singalong classics, jokes and hit songs.

DAILY EVENTS

Nightly	The Library, 11th floor cocktail lounge, wonderful panoramic views of Doha 6 pm - 1 am.
Lunchtime / Nightly	Shehrazad Lounge, Pub Lunches noon - 3 pm. Evenings, 5 pm - 1 am, Wed & Thurs 'till 3 am, live music, cocktails, and light snacks. Happy hour 5 pm - 7 pm
Every Night except Sat	Chingari Authentic Tandoor Restaurant, full beverage selection, 7 pm - 11 pm
Every Night except Friday	Maxim - Fine dining restaurant. Cocktails, haute cuisine, full beverage selection, dinner 7 pm - 11 pm.
Daily	Hyde Park Coffee Shop. Breakfast buffet 6 am - 10 am. International buffet lunch 12 noon - 3 pm plus à la carte menu until midnight.

WEEKLY EVENTS

Every Sunday	East Meets West - From the exotic Orient to the classic favourites of Europe. Hyde Park Coffee Shop 7 pm - 10 pm.
Every Monday	Italian Night - Fresh Pasta and much more. Hyde Park Coffee Shop 7 pm - 10 pm.
Every Tuesday	Show Cooking - International dishes cooked before your very eyes. Hyde Park Coffee Shop 7 pm - 10 pm.
Every Wednesday	Surf and Turf - Wonderful seafood & steaks served on sizzling platters! Hyde Park Coffee Shop 7 pm - 10 pm.
Every Friday	Family Brunch - Hyde Park Coffee Shop 6 am - 3 pm.

Promotions may change, so please check when booking.
For Restaurant reservations, please call 417417.

What's on Hotel Sofitel

SEPTEMBER

2nd & 3rd — Travel Nite '99. The band 'Aquarius' is being specially flown in from Sri Lanka to perform 'live' at our show for travel industry personnel.

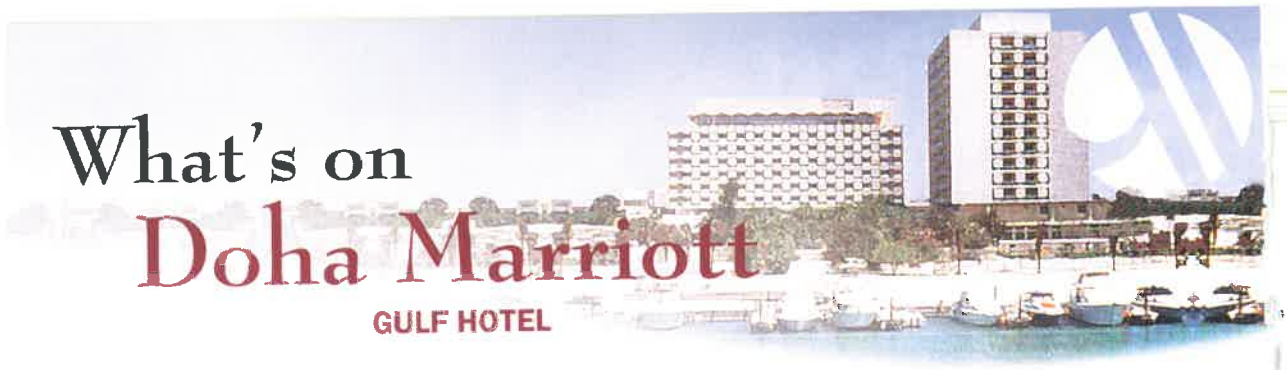
WEEKLY THEME NIGHTS AT LA BRASSERIE RESTAURANT

Saturday	TUNISIAN NIGHT - Featuring couscous and other tastes of the Maghreb
Sunday	FRENCH NIGHT - A taste of France. Treasure the taste of traditional French cuisine
Tuesday	ASIAN NIGHT - Savour dishes from the Asian continent.
Wednesday	ITALIAN NIGHT - Experience the delights of Italian food, including freshly baked pizzas with your choice of toppings.
Every Thursday & Friday	Dance the night away at "Chez Franka" disco club

Promotions may change, please check when booking.
For Restaurant reservations, please call 435222.

What's on Doha Marriott

GULF HOTEL



SEPTEMBER

Al Nasseem (opening Wednesday, September 15, 1999)
Located at the Beach Promenade of the hotel, Al Nasseem will open (weather permitting) for the general public (Qatari nationals and expatriates), families and singles, nightly Saturday - Tuesday from 7 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. and on Wednesday and Thursday from 7 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. and closed on Friday. It will feature an "Oriental" menu with mezzahs, mixed grills, shawarma, ouzi and Oriental sweets which can be ordered from the à la carte menu. Fresh juices and non-alcoholic cocktails will complement the menu. Guests will be entertained with live Arabic music. Sheesha, coffee, tea can also be enjoyed over a game of tabli.

OCTOBER

Vienna Café (opening October 1999)
Enjoy the splendour and sophistication of Vienna in Doha. Located off the newly renovated lobby of the hotel, the Vienna Café will feature the best in pastries, tarts, chocolates, light snacks and refreshing beverages. Evenings will feature entertainment by a live pianist. Join your friends for social get-togethers or unwind with your business colleagues after the office. Open daily from 9 a.m. to 12 midnight (1 a.m. on Wednesday and Thursday).

WEEKLY EVENTS

Every Saturday	Lunch and Dinner International Buffets	Al Banuche
Every Sunday	Night of the Red Dragon	Al Banuche
Every Monday	Italian Night	Al Banuche
Every Tuesday	Seafood Night	Al Banuche
Every Wednesday	Night of 1001 Spices	Al Banuche
Every Thursday	Lunch and Dinner International Buffets	Al Banuche
Every Friday	Brunch - NOW FROM 8 AM TO 3 PM!!!	Fisherman's Cove
	Lunch and Dinner International Buffets	Al Banuche

Fish Taverna, open every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday for members and hotel guests from 7 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. (Friday 11:30 p.m.). Full beverage selection available. Enjoy indoor and open air dining in a casual setting of the hotel's marina as boats cruise up and down the harbour. Select your mezzedes from the bountiful trays of Greek khoriatiki salad, melitzano salata, fried zucchini, etc. and proceed with a variety of fresh and imported seafood, whole fish and shellfish by the kilo, which will be grilled, fried or baked according to your desires.

What's on Around Doha

SEPTEMBER

August 16th - Sept. 6th	Men's Junior World Handball Championships
September 4th - 10th	Schools and Educational Needs Exhibition, Qatar International Exhibition Centre. Organisers: Al Maaria for PR Tel. (+974) 447740, Fax (+974) 441146
September 10th	Opening Day of the Season at Doha Golf Club
September 16th	Monthly Medal (Pre-Qualifier for the Ryder Cup Matches)
September 16th - 19th	ISO 9000 Exhibition, Qatar International Exhibition Centre Organisers: World Trade Centre Tel. (+974) 354141, Fax (+974) 423048
September 22nd - 24th	Ryder Cup - Doha Golf Club

OCTOBER

October 1st	Monthly Medal (Pre-Qualifier for Matchplay) Doha Golf Club
October 4th - 8th	Tunisian Products Exhibition, Qatar International Exhibition Centre. Organisers: Omnia for Exhibitions Tel. (+974) 438240, Fax (+974) 433695
October 14th	GBM Golf Day - Doha Golf Club
October 16th - 19th	Finance & Investment Exhibition at the Qatar International Exhibition Centre. Organisers: The Arab Investment Centre Tel. (+974) 369955, Fax (+974) 449920
October 22nd	BMW Invitational - Doha Golf Club
October 23rd	RasGas Inauguration Ceremony (By invitation only)
October 28th - 2nd Nov	Lebanon Economic Exhibition, Qatar International Exhibition Centre. Organisers: Al Corniche for Advertisement Tel. (+974) 440224, Fax (+974) 418886

NOVEMBER

November 7th - 11th	Gifts & Athletic Products Exhibition. Qatar International Exhibition Centre. Organisers: Al Nusour for PR Tel. (+974) 442655, Fax (+974) 434499
November 9th - 19th	British Week - see Marhaba feature for more information, and watch the local press for dates and timings of individual events
November 12th	Pro-Am (Dubai-Doha-Bahrain) Doha Golf Club
November 19th	British Aerospace Invitational Doha Golf Club
November 25th - 28th	Investment Exhibition, Qatar International Exhibition Centre. Organisers: World Trade Centre.
November 26th	KLM Open Medal Doha Golf Club
November 30th - Dec. 3rd	Qatar International Exhibition for Children's Games, Qatar International Exhibition Centre. Organisers: World Trade Centre

WHERE TO SHOP

ARTS & CRAFTS

Oriental Carpets	411413

AUDIO VISUAL/ ELECTRONIC

Ahmad Al-Uthman	(Pioneer, Akai)	423507
Almana & Partner	(Philips)	311072
Al Muftah Group	(Sharp)	446868
Jumbo Electronics		423303
Modern Home	(Sony)	422815
Domasco	(Sanyo)	411070
Technotrade	(Hitachi)	322500
Tradetec	(Casio)	322595

BOOKSHOPS & STATIONERY

Family Book Shop	424148

BOUTIQUES

Betty Barclay	(Almana Centre)	448999
Ciel	(AlSadd Street)	443374
Next	(The Mall)	678222
Escada	(Almana Centre)	427733
Gucci	(Alfardan Centre)	429534
Oasis	(The Mall)	678881
Mango	(The Mall)	678181
Maxmara	(Alfardan Centre)	364600
Milano	(The Mall)	678899
European Boutique	AlSadd Street	32848

COSMETICS/PERFUMES

Al Muftah	(Guerlain)	446867
Blue Salon	(Clarins)	441424
The Centre		440202
Merch Trading	(Christian Dior)	417317
Modern Home	(Chanel, Lanvin)	422815
Salam Plaza	(Clinique)	832050

DEPARTMENT STORES

Al Fardan Centre	408408
Al Muftah	446867
Blue Salon	447408
The Centre	440202
Modern Home	422815
City Plaza	420491
New Trade Gallery	424626
Salam Plaza	832050
AlSadd Plaza	478355
The Mall	678888
Highland (The Mall)	678678

FLORISTS

Qatar International Nursery	420553
Interflora	322717

HAIRDRESSERS

Femme	671684

MUSICAL EQUIPMENT

Orient Music	442464

OPTICIANS

Aljabor Vision Technology	427152
Gulf Optics	441553

PHARMACIES

The Centre Pharmacy	440202
Cure Pharmacy	423918

PERSIAN CARPETS

Oriental Carpet Co	411413
Bradran Carpets (The Mall)	678886

PHOTOGRAPHIC STUDIOS

Venus Laboratories (1 hour service)	411291
Gulf Colour Labs	419893

SPORTS EQUIPMENT

Galaxy Sports	430322
SportsMart (opposite The Centre)	430311

SUPERMARKETS

The Centre	440202
Family Food Centre	422456
Food Centre	427432
Q-Mart (The Mall)	678822

TOYS

Toys 'R' Us	435904

Shopping in Doha

Doha's shopping scene is constantly expanding, and the construction of each new shopping complex - mall or souq - offers an even larger choice.

Qatar offers an amazing selection of goods from all parts of the world, and in every price range. Whilst famous international names and brands are available in just about every sector, the avid shopper will also be able to find new and unusual products from little known manufacturers scattered across the globe.

There are exclusive boutiques, elegant department stores and large well appointed showrooms which often follow an international 'house style' in their decor; there are the traditional souqs or bazaars with hundreds of small retailers crowded into narrow alleyways; and then there are the new souqs and shopping malls with modern air-conditioned shops grouped in marble-clad buildings with fountains and potted plants. The choice is yours; there is something for everyone. But wherever you shop, you will find friendly courteous staff, fair deals and value for money!

In the centre of town, apart from the main souq area, shops are concentrated around Abdulla Bin Thani Street, Kahraba Street and Musheireb Street. Leading out from the centre, there are a number of shops and restaurants on Rayyan Road as far as Gulf Street, and on the Salwa Road (which runs on from Musheireb Street) right out of town as far as the Central Vegetable, Fish and Meat Markets, the Animal Market and the 'Thursday and Friday souqs' which are in the same area.

Al Mirqab Al Jadeed Street in Fariq Al Nasr has developed as another popular shopping area, grouping book shops, tailors, supermarkets, boutiques, a department store and restaurants etc.. Al Sadd Street offers another extensive range of shops, boutiques and department stores. Both roads run out of town from Suhaim Bin Hamad Street (the C Ring Road) to February 22nd/Al Amir Street (the D Ring Road), and are sandwiched between Rayyan Road and Salwa Road.

Each shopping area includes several jewellers, but for the heaviest concentration - and therefore the widest choice in a small area, you need to visit the gold souq (see our section on the souq). The same thing applies to fabrics - to find the widest selection, visit the souq, where you can find materials priced from as little as three Riyals to several hundred Riyals per metre.

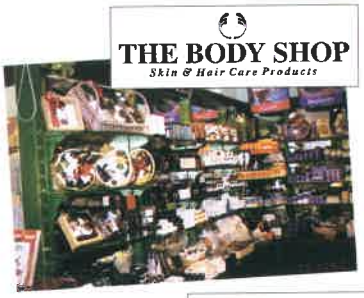
The Mall, which groups a number of boutiques, several fast food outlets which offer European, international and oriental dishes on their menus, a supermarket, and a café, is close to the airport on the D Ring Road, and several new malls are under construction - the City Centre in West Bay, and Landmark shopping mall near the Immigration and Passport office to name but two. Several large shops have also opened on the Airport Road.

The following section will give you some ideas of where to go. Whatever part of town you're in, you'll find a place where you can sit and relax. Don't ignore the little unimposing tea shops in favour of a café - the tea shops offer incredible value for money, with fruit juices at about QR3 for a pint; tea at half a Riyal a glass, egg sandwiches ('omelettes' rolled up in Arab bread) at QR1.50, and sweet, deep-fried dough balls at half a Riyal each!

The Centre

If you had to design your ideal shopping centre, a store with everything under one roof, what would you put in it? Well, perhaps you'd start with clothes and a wide range of boutiques within the store; next perhaps you'd add shoes; then perfumes and cosmetics; household items and linens; greetings cards and gifts; costume jewellery; electronics items; video and audio tapes; books and magazines; luggage; garden furniture; a food hall; a bakery with mouth-watering breads, pastries and cakes; a greengrocers and a wet-fish shop; a pharmacy; an optician; what about a post office and bank ATM machines? Oh yes, and a cafe to sit and relax, meet your friends, or just sit and run through that shopping list once more to check you haven't forgotten anything.

What you have just done is describe The Centre, located on the Salwa Road close to the Ramada junction! It's one of the most popular shopping destinations in town, with plenty of parking and an enthusiastic and helpful staff. Now, it's open even longer hours so you can fit your shopping around your work hours and your social life.



Store Timings

Weekdays
Store 9 am - 12.30 pm and 4 pm to 9 pm

Food Hall and Bakery
7 am - 3 pm and 4 pm to 10 pm

Fridays
Food Hall and Bakery
8.30 am - 10.30 am and 4.30 pm to 10 pm

Store
8.30 am - 10.30 am and 4.30 pm to 9 pm
Tel. 440202

Atrium

Full interior design service available

Dream of luxury and comfort combined; think of tasteful decor, luxurious fabrics and superb craftsmanship. Now come and visit our 3,100 sq. m. showroom on the Salwa Road and you will find all those things and more!

Atrium Design does more than just sell furniture, soft furnishings, accessories and objets d'art. If you so desire, it can offer a full interior design service complete from furniture to carpets and curtains, wall-coverings, lighting, even paintings.

You can choose from our extensive range of elegant Regency or Louis XVI style ranges, or select something more modern. For those who want exclusivity, we offer furniture by Pulaski, Christian Robert and Housseau. We have a full range of bedroom sets, and lounge and dining suites of different sizes, including occasional tables, buffets and display cabinets. Much of our furniture comes from the USA and Europe, but we also have our own carpentry shops here in Qatar and in UAE which can produce work of international standards to your own designs.

We offer some of the most exclusive fabric ranges in the world, including JAB Anstoetz Louis Feraud, Pearsons hand-tailored upholstery, and Kobe's exclusive fabrics, wall-coverings and accessories.

Whilst you are making your selections, sit and relax in Atrium Design's exclusive client cafe!

Atrium Design is part of the well-known Al Muftah Group, and can offer complete house furnishing packs for real estate projects, including air conditioning, appliances, carpets, curtains, crockery and linen. Our triple-level showroom also displays kitchen cabinets from South Africa, and the 'Flexa' range of children's furniture.

Timings
8.30 am - mid-day
4 pm - 8.30 pm
The showroom is closed on Fridays

Tel: (+974) 688907/8
Fax (+974) 688910

High Fashion; Expert Tailoring

With over thirty years experience in the textiles and tailoring business, Al Khodary Trading Company can make •shirts •trousers •jackets •thobes and •two or three piece suits for ladies or gentlemen.

the new suit

PURE NEW WOOL

The company has six outlets around town, selling a wide range of top-class fabrics from Europe and Japan; everything from 100% wool to 100% polyester, and in weights to suit all seasons; five of the shops have resident master tailors. Books of fabric samples provide easy comparison, and pattern books offer a wide range of designs, plain, stripes and checks, etc. Clients are, however, welcome to produce their own designs or have a favourite garment duplicated.

Well-known textile brands include Clissold and K.M. Feather from England; Lanitex from Spain; Tetrex, Toyobo, IMA, Nomura and Unitika from Japan; and Luckytex and Thaitoray from Thailand. Some textile manufacturers even produce a range of fabrics especially for Al Khodary.

What started as a small business in Souq Waqif has now branched out across town with a total of fifty employees. In addition to personal tailoring, Al Khodary are the leading producers of uniforms for banks, hotels, restaurants, offices and schools. We have special fabrics for hospital and army uniforms and for jeans. No job is too large or too small, and the tailors will also undertake alterations on ready-made garments. Al-Awadi Textiles and Tailoring, specializes in Arabic thobes.

Visitors to the country can take advantage of Al Khodary's rapid and expert tailoring services. Apart from the very busy Eid holiday periods, suits can be made in just two days, and the tailors will keep clients' measurements

on file for re-orders, which can be dispatched overseas.

- Dressy business suits; sportscoats and blazers. Made to measure and a match for top designer labels!
- Classic shirts, skirts and suits for ladies.
- Shirts can be made in an infinite variety of styles; for example : with or without a back box pleat; single-needle stitching; one button cuffs; shirt-tail hems; French seams edge-stitched for durability; vents; patch pockets; Peter Pan, button-down or shawl collars - you name it, and we can do it!
- Gabardine blazers to weather any season and to go with anything.

Fabrics are available in a wide price range, and tailoring costs will vary according to the amount of detail. However, Al Khodary offer some of the best prices in town. Average tailoring charges (in US Dollars) are: Two-piece lounge suits - $75 - $85, Waistcoats; $25 - $30, Trousers; $11 - $13, Jackets; $60 - $65, Safari Suits; $35 - $40, Arabic Thobes; $8 - $10.

Shop Hours

Sat - Thu	8 am - 12 noon 4 pm - 9.30 pm
Fri	8 am - 10 am 4 pm - 9.30 pm

Al-KHODARY TRADING CO. (K.T.C.) & subsidiary branches:

Al-Khodary Trading Company Souq Waqif, Tel: (+974) 424115, Fax: (+974) 419421
Al-Jazeera Textiles & Tailoring Centre Doha Souq, Tel: (+974) 430059
Al-Annabi Textiles & Tailoring Doha Souq, Tel: (+974) 413415
Al-Annabi Textiles & Tailoring Souq Al-Ahmed, Tel: (+974) 433654
AbdurRazzak Mohd Hashim Stores (Textiles & Tailoring) Souq Al-Ahmed, Tel: (+974) 430406
Al-Awadi Textiles & Tailoring Bin Towar Centre, Tel: (+974) 866212

P. O. Box 1024, Doha, Qatar E-mail: randevou@qatar.net.qa

HaLa

Designer touches that add discreet individuality can be hard to find, but the HALA showroom offers the very best for every room in your home. From crystal fruit bowls to silver and silver gilt serving salvers; candelabra to quartz crystal napkin holders; embossed and engraved photograph frames to silk flower arrangements.

An elegant dinner table requires a stunning centre-piece, exquisite place settings and fine linen, all of which you can find at HALA.

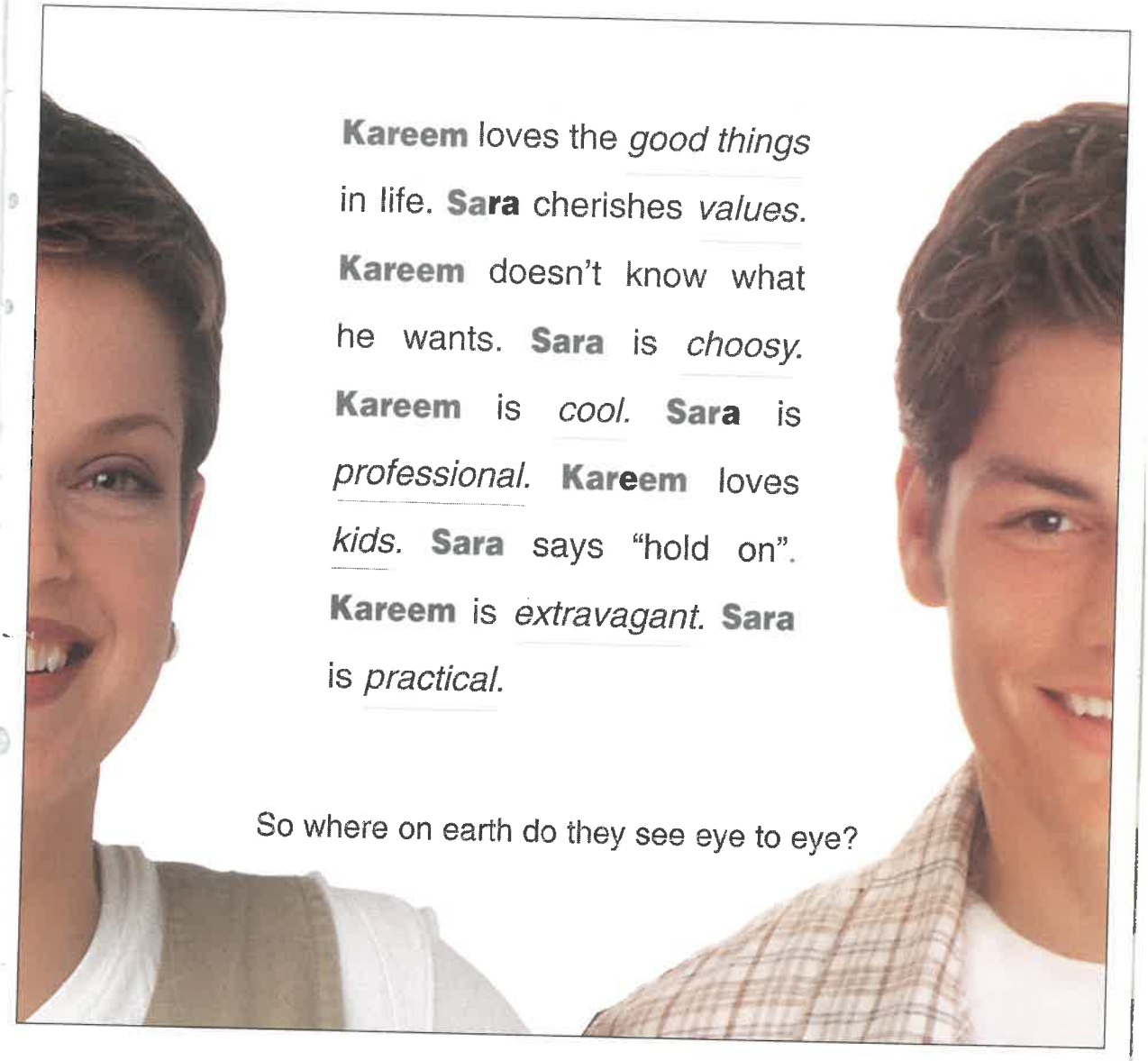
Let HALA be of service to you: uniquely, discreetly, and tastefully.

There is a wonderful selection of wedding or anniversary gifts, with hand-made greetings cards; each gift is exquisitely wrapped and beribboned for delivery. To celebrate the birth of a child, HALA offer the most exclusive selection of fine-quality novelties to present with sweets as a keepsake for visiting guests; elegant boxes, baskets and trays can be made up with our hand-made chocolates for presentation gifts to mark a special occasion or celebration. Silk flower arrangements in any size or colour scheme can be created to co-ordinate with your interior decor, to suit any occasion.

In addition to the large and tastefully appointed HALA showroom on the Salwa Road, a small island-style boutique is situated in The Mall for your convenience.

Opening Hours: 9 am - 12 noon
4 pm - 9 pm

Tel. 690001



JCPenney
COLLECTIONS

The Mall, D'Ring Road, Tel: 678800

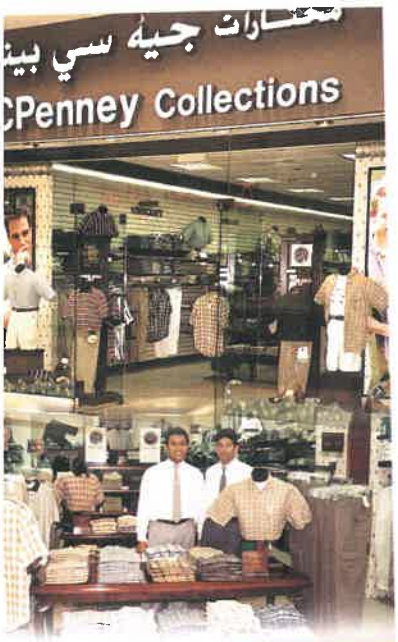
Also at: Dubai: BurJuman Centre, Tel: 515353 • Deira City Centre, Tel: 2953988 • Wafi Shopping Mall, Tel: 3242330, • Abu Dhabi: Tel:674100 • Sharjah:Tel: 5562088 • Muscat: 564708 • Kuwait: 2611125 • Al Khobar: 8971611 • Bahrain: 582110

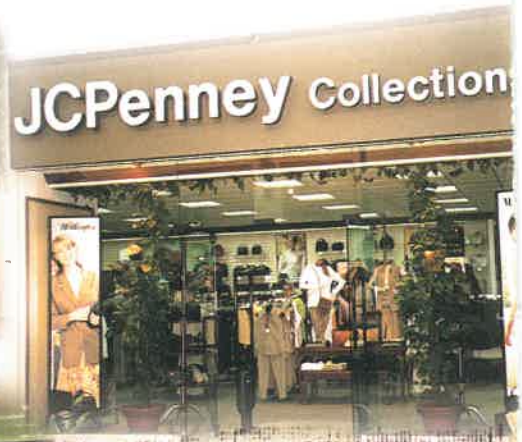
THE FINE LINE(S)

Few fashion brands have succeeded in realising every shopper's dream: that hard-to-find combination of style and value for money. Of these, perhaps no one does it better than JCPenney Collections. The world-renowned chain of American fashion is in fact built on the philosophy of providing the customer with correctly priced, quality goods. There's quality in every item. From the choice of fabrics, to the design, and down to the stitching. The value for money? Well. that's in every penny!

JCPenney Collections in Doha is no different. Since Doha Liwa Trading Company brought the brand to The Mall, it fast became the family's first choice for fashion and home necessities (and a lot of gotta-have-them products too!).

The larger showroom on The Boulevard offers a wide range of coordinated fashion for the whole family, including JCPenney's sub-brands of Worthington, Hunt Club, and St. John's Bay. The store also houses what must be Doha's largest collection of home products and accessories, ranging from rugs and cushions to bathroom sets and table linen.





A second showroom is located on The Avenue, specialising in "smart casual" fashion for men. And the interlinked showroom next door is devoted to the beautifully crafted men's leather shoes of Florsheim - another international brand courtesy of Doha Liwa Trading Company. Altogether, the two JCPenney showrooms, alongside the stores of Florsheim and Prémaman - a haven for mothers-to-be and children - make a wonderful and complete family shopping experience.

The main JCPenney Collections showroom is the place to visit if you want to choose coordinated bedroom, bathroom or dining room sets. The choices are endless. The indecisive beware! And if the item you want is not in stock, the management will be more than pleased to bring it in on special order for you if it's available in any of their Middle East showrooms. But the Home Collections section is not just about necessities. It is the perfect place to find those little items that add a warm and personal touch to any room in the house.

JCPenney Collections' lingerie section undoubtedly has one of the most extensive and popular selections of lingerie and sleepwear in the city – in just about every colour, size and fabric imaginable.

The women's fashion section has a diverse range of styles for all sizes and shapes, and for all occasions, casual or formal. These are complemented with a vast accessories collection, which includes everything from handbags, down to the scrunchy!

The JCPenney men's collections follows along the same lines, in terms of the wide selection, diverse styles, and quality. Whether you're looking for casual slacks or a formal suit, you will find it at the sort of price that makes you smile and reach out for more.

Being a family store, the little ones were not forgotten. In fact, they are well-catered to. JCPenney Collections offers cool, durable wear that makes the child and teenager happy - and gives the parents peace of mind.

But if your child is still in the cot (or not yet showed his or her head), we suggest you visit Prémaman. Brought to Doha by the same people that introduced JCPenney Collections, the Belgian franchise is a stylish outlet for high quality maternity, baby and children's wear, alongside nursery items and safe, fun toys. As far as the mother-to-be is concerned, Prémaman's fashion does not attempt to hide the pregnancy, but rather highlights it in the most stylish, practical way.

Doha Liwa Trading Company's franchises are completed with Florsheim, the quality men's shoemakers. Rarely have comfort and looks been integrated into such high-quality shoes. If you do a lot of walking in a suit, there is no alternative to Florsheim.

Between JCPenney Collections, Prémaman, and Florsheim, the whole family can be sure of being dressed fashionably and stylishly, in fine lines that combine the best in quality..... With the most value for money. Enjoy!

For further details, contact Tel. 378800, Fax 678811.

Al Sadd Street has become one of the most exclusive shopping areas in town, and Al Sadd Plaza is emerging as a popular meeting place. As well as offering an attractive modern grouping of small boutiques with an incredibly wide selection, the air-conditioned comfort and pleasant surroundings make it a place friends and families are choosing for a simple afternoon out. In fact, it's a hidden treasure, waiting to be discovered!

Unlike many other parts of town, Al Sadd Plaza has plenty of dedicated parking, around 575 spaces, 290 of which are in the shade, and the complex can be accessed directly from the main road or from the car park.

You can shop in air-conditioned comfort in the two storey complex which brings together a total of 90 shops in a pleasing and convenient layout. Al Sadd Plaza has its own cafe, where you can sit and relax, talk to your friends, hold a business meeting or just watch the world go by. You can choose from a wide menu of meals, snacks and refreshments. Downstairs, the raised pavement-style cafe is open to all, whilst the linked upstairs seating area is enclosed and reserved for families only.

Escalators link the two levels of the Plaza, and on both floors you will find it easy to glance at the window displays of shops on each side as you walk around.

Al Sadd Plaza has some excellent music stores with a wide range of cassettes and CD's, singles, albums and boxed collections to meet all tastes. There is an amazing selection of smart casual wear for men, and both day and

evening wear for ladies. Clothes stores and shoe shops are conveniently intermingled with those selling accessories so that putting a co-ordinated outfit together no longer needs to be a time-consuming task that takes you right around town. There are shops selling jewellery, carpets, furniture, tableware and crockery, gifts and cards, and you'll also find ranges of natural skin and body products, essential oils, candles and room fragrances. For special occasions or just days of self-indulgence, you can chose from selections of hand-made chocolates and there's an amazing choice of perfumes, fragrances and incenses.

The spacious ground floor entrance hall is ideal for small exhibitions and displays; in fact organisations and individuals with tasteful artworks to display can make arrangements with the management to mount a mini-exhibition there.

Andrew Poultney and Eid Al Sayed

Keen to keep younger customers amused, Al Sadd Plaza has a lower level games arcade with everything from game machines to a colourful supervised play area for young children and tables where they can sit quietly and read or draw or simply talk to their friends. "Fun Day" even has a specialit sweet shop!

Al Sadd Plaza attracts window shoppers as well as those seriously looking for something to buy, and because it has something for everyone, it attra all age groups and nationalities

Al Sadd Plaza is currently open from 9 am to 2.30 pm and 4 pm to 10 pm from Saturday to Thursday and from 4 pm to 10 pm on Fridays; there are, however, plans under discussion to keep it open right through the day on weekdays.

For further details, call General Manager Andrew Poultney or Public Relations Manager Eid A. Aziz Al Sayed on 478355

R
RESHI
Established 1840

"The Treasures of the East" at RESHI

In a world that is modern and high-tech, it's soothing to take a step back to the craftsmanship of the past.

Instead of being surrounded by mass produced items, made of modern materials, why not grace your home with the patina of exquisitely carved walnut, or inlaid rosewood? Decorate your walls and floors with rare handwoven oriental carpets from all the most famous carpet-weaving regions of the world. Take pleasure in selecting unique copperwork, silver and brass; onyx, art pieces and gift items.

Established in 1840, Reshi's source antique pieces and handicrafts from Europe, the Middle East and Asia, with buyers regularly travelling to India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran, the Republics of Central Asia and the antique storehouses of Germany and France.

The Reshi family's craftsmen in Pakistan produce intricately handcarved walnut, or plain polished rosewood, writing tables, escritoires, bookcases, china cabinets, and occasional tables. Any item can be made to order, within three months, so that matching pieces can be added to your collection.

Reshi's also stock antique shawls and quilts; jewellery boxes and stationery boxes, camel bags, tribal carpets, leather items, objets d'art and bric-a-brac.

'A thing of beauty is a joy forever', and Reshi's has 158 years of tradition. Take your time to browse through the Reshi 'Private Collection' of antiques and handicrafts; you are sure to find something wonderful for your own home, or to offer as a special gift.

Reshi, in the Shopping Centre, next to The Centre. Tel: 312927, Fax: 312932

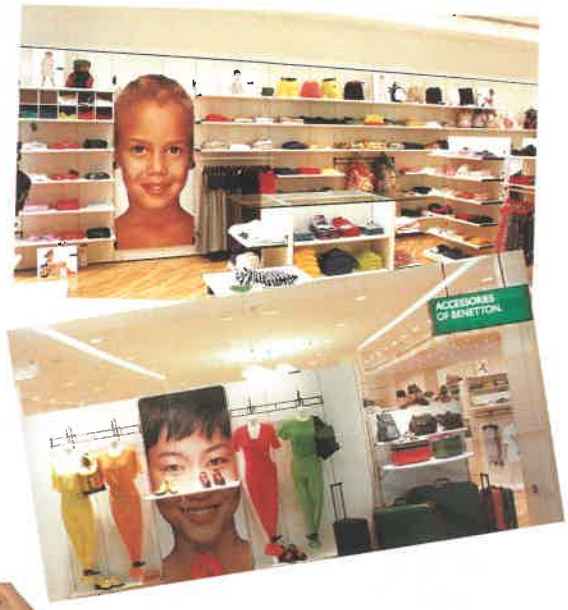
UNITED COLORS OF BENETTON.

The Mall

The Benetton name is synonymous with good quality - and that applies to everything from T-shirts to shoes, shorts to classy jackets, filmy blouses to wrap-around skirts.

Just the name tells you that you'll find something special in our showroom! The selection of colours is breathtaking. Benetton has bright citron and sherbert colours for children's clothes, up-to-the-minute pastels or sophisticated dark shades for ladies, strong shades for the men and the whole spectrum for teens! There's a whole range of casual clothes that will take you from fun in the sun to smart casual evening wear. You can select a mix-and-match wardrobe quickly and easily - or just find one item to complete a new outfit.

The store is spacious and bright, and new collections come in for each season. Our staff will be delighted to help you make your selection, and you can try items on in comfort in our fitting rooms. Our professional sales associates provide you with excellent service.



Our opening hours are :
Weekdays
9 am - 10 pm
Fridays
3.30pm - 10 pm
Tel: 677088

المول THE MALL

The Mall celebrates its second anniversary this October, just before it hosts the second British Week - in November.

Now an exceedingly popular venue in town, The Mall offers much more than just an attractive well-appointed shopping complex. It has become a centre for community activities hosting exhibitions, children's events, demonstrations, product launches and fashion shows.

Each month there are special surprise activities organised in The Mall's spacious central courtyard. The shops and boutiques offer a wide range of goods and services; there are different cuisines from around the world in the food court, there's an attractive café where you can sit, relax, meet friends and watch the world go by and The Mall even has its own cinema.

Families enjoy shopping in The Mall because it has stores which cater to all ages and tastes; even better there are play facilities to keep the youngsters occupied whilst their elders browse!

Whether you are gift shopping, need a new oriental carpet to grace your home, are searching for a new outfit, want a special bag of sweets, would like a portrait photograph, have to do your regular supermarket shopping, go to the laundry, have a film developed or a picture framed, you can do it all in The Mall. You can buy stamps, telephone cards, and if you run out of cash, don't worry, there are several ATMs and even a bank open extended hours. All at The Mall.

For further details, call 678888

the souq

QARDABA

AN ALADDIN'S SHOPPING CAVE TO EXPLORE

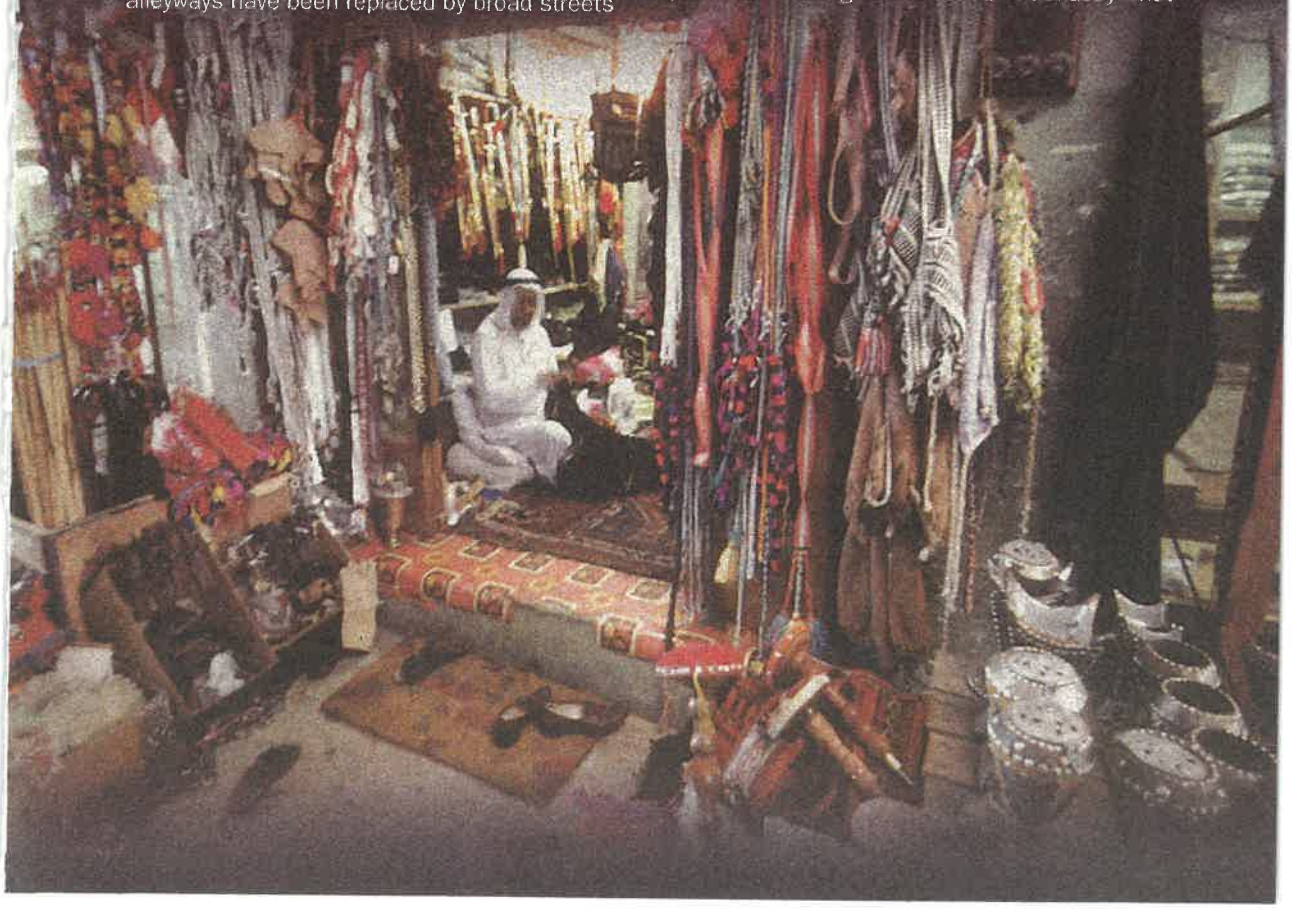
The word 'souq' actually means market or bazaar, and the term originally applied to traders with temporary stalls set out to ply their wares, often at weekends as people made special journeys to town. Souq Waqif, the 'standing souq' has evolved from such humble beginnings and whilst perhaps still the most traditional part of Doha's 'souq' area (close to the port), shows all the signs of modernising and developing along the same lines as newer areas.

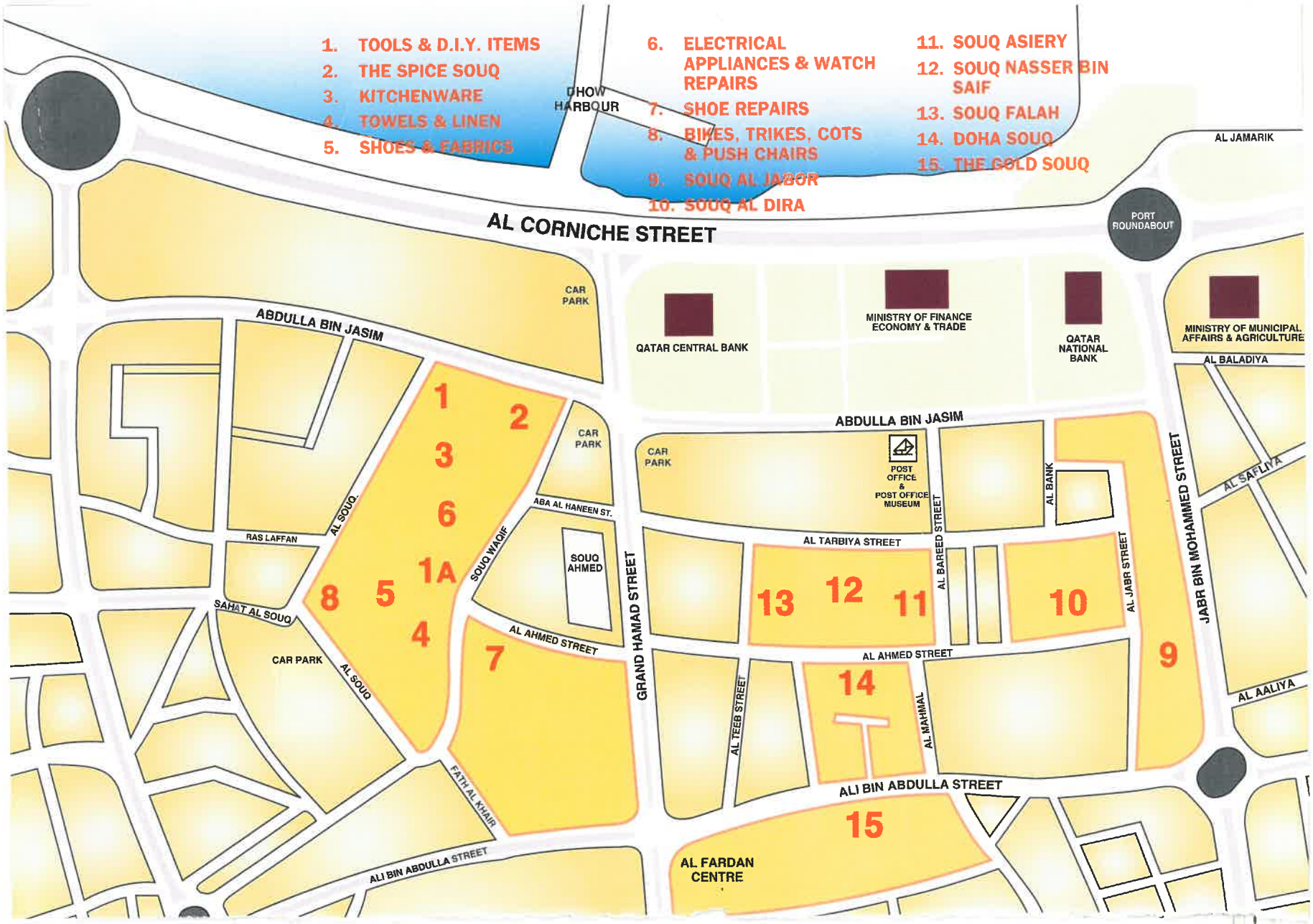
Twenty years ago, Doha's souqs were narrow alleyways of small shops, their goods piled high to the ceilings of small storage areas overnight and set out on the unpaved pathways in the daytime. There were no permanent roofs to the alleyways, but corrugated iron covered some of the spaces between shops, cutting out most of the sunlight during the day - and keeping the goods at least partially dry during the occasional winter rains. The pathways of Souq Waqif are now paved, and the roofing is permanent, but you can still find bulging stalls in amongst the small shops. But many of the old market traders have re-established their businesses in newer parts of the souq, where there are marble-clad, air-conditioned buildings with escalators, waterfalls and indoor plants. There, the small alleyways have been replaced by broad streets and parking areas, or mall-type walkways. Whilst some of the traders still offer goods at rock-bottom prices, there are more who are moving 'up-market' in terms of quality and price. Now, you can find a full range of goods in the souq - from the cheapest of imports right through to designer goods.

Although you will now find parades of shops scattered all across town with names like Souq Hamad, Souq Al Badi etc, when people in Qatar talk of "the souq", they are usually referring to the area between Al Souq Street and Jabr Bin Mohammed Street, just behind the Corniche and the town's oldest market area. Despite the changes, the souq does still represent good value, plenty of variety, and many of the traditional ways. It is still a 'must' on the visitor's itinerary, and a regular part of most residents' shopping excursions.

SO WHAT CAN YOU FIND IN THE SOUQ?

Well, its layout still follows tradition in some respects, with traders in similar products often grouped together - which gives you plenty of opportunity to compare products without having to walk miles! If you have the time, the best thing is to browse around the extensive souq area on one day, returning the next to make your purchases having first checked out exactly what




1. TOOLS & D.I.Y. ITEMS
2. THE SPICE SOUQ
3. KITCHENWARE
4. TOWELS & LINEN
5. SHOES & FABRICS
6. ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES & WATCH REPAIRS
7. SHOE REPAIRS
8. BIKES, TRIKES, COTS & PUSH CHAIRS
9. SOUQ AL JABOR
10. SOUQ AL DIRA
11. SOUQ ASIERY
12. SOUQ NASSER BIN SAIF
13. SOUQ FALAH
14. DOHA SOUQ
15. THE GOLD SOUQ
DHOW HARBOUR
AL JAMARIK
AL CORNICHE STREET
PORT ROUNDABOUT
CAR PARK
ABDULLA BIN JASIM
QATAR CENTRAL BANK
MINISTRY OF FINANCE ECONOMY & TRADE
QATAR NATIONAL BANK
MINISTRY OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS & AGRICULTURE
AL BALADIYA
POST OFFICE & POST OFFICE MUSEUM
AL BANK
AL SAFLIYA
ABA AL HANEEN ST.
SOUQ AHMED
SOUQ WAQIF
AL SOUQ
RAS LAFFAN
AL TARBIYA STREET
AL BAREED STREET
AL JABR STREET
JABR BIN MOHAMMED STREET
GRAND HAMAD STREET
SAHAT AL SOUQ
AL AHMED STREET
AL TEEB STREET
AL MAHMAL
AL AALIYA
FATH AL KHAIR
ALI BIN ABDULLA STREET
AL FARDAN CENTRE

is on offer! Prices do vary in different parts of the souq (boutiques in the modern air-conditioned buildings tend to be more expensive for example) and you can find something priced at QR50 in one shop for maybe QR35 just two doors away! Only a few places have fixed prices, most expecting you to bargain for what you want (part of the fun of souq shopping). Whichever part of the souq you visit, we feel sure you'll find a wide selection of goods, but the following rough 'guide' may give you some idea of places to start your explorations! (You can find each of the main souq areas identified on our souq map).

NATIONAL DRESS, PERFUMES AND SPICES

Souq Waqif has a number of perfume shops and stalls offering the most exclusive fragrances from the west alongside the attars and essential oils popular in Arabia. The traders will even make a perfume exclusively for you! The perfume shops, amongst others, sell the sweet smelling oud - the wood fragments that are burnt in the presence of guests, the smoke being used to perfume the clothes and hair, or to impregnate freshly laundered clothes before they are put away. You can buy the traditional incense burners there too, made from metal-lined wood, from gypsum or brass - or the more modern versions in fancy metals or ceramics which instead of burning a special charcoal, plug into the electricity at home or into the cigarette lighter socket of your car! Part of the souq is devoted to spices, and whilst there is an almost bewildering selection of whole and ground spices (even a selection of mixed ground spices laid out in the containers in stripes) you can also buy all kinds of incense in the same area.

This is also the part of the souq well worth a visit if you want to buy any of the traditional forms of Qatari national dress. For the ladies, there are the long filmy, richly embroidered over-dresses, 'Thobe Al Nashl', worn on special occasions; the day dresses or 'djellabia', heavily embroidered at the neck and cuffs; the black cloaks or 'abbayas'; the delicate filmy head coverings called 'shayla'; the headscarves; the black, gold and silver-decorated 'bukhnuq' worn by the young girls to cover their heads and shoulders before they start to wear the abbaya; and the veils and masks. The embroiderers who produce the bukhnuq also sell the sirwal, or long baggy trousers that the ladies wear under their dresses. The tight cuffs are heavily embroidered in gold, silver and coloured threads. For the men, you can find the long white thobes, the crotcheted or embroidered caps worn under the headdress; the headdress or 'ghutra' - which can be plain white, cream cashmere, black and white or red and white checked cotton; and the black 'agal' which hold the headdress in place. [Tradition says the Bedouin used the agal to 'hobble' their camels at night, slipping the circle over the camel's bent knee to restrict its movement!] Shops also stock the men's ceremonial cloaks or 'bisht' and the heavy camel hair and sheepskin lined winter cloaks or

coats. There are a few gold shops in this area, but for a higher concentration of shops, see the paragraph on Gold and Silver Jewellery.

KITCHEN UTENSILS

Souq Waqif is also full of shops selling all kinds of kitchen utensils, everything from cutlery and crockery, glasses and coolboxes, vacuum flasks and storage boxes to plastic ware and pots and pans (including the sort of cauldron-sized containers which will enable you to cook for hundreds!).

HARDWARE AND D.I.Y. GOODS

At the edge of Souq Waqif closest to the Corniche, you can find hardware shops which stock everything from tools nails and screws to hose pipes, lawn mowers, tents, wire netting, fly-screen mesh, wheelbarrows and paint.

Also in Souq Waqif:

Interspersed throughout Souq Waqif are toy shops, shoe shops, luggage stores, stalls selling novelty items, textile stores, and two alleyways of grocery and sweet shops (the latter selling a wide range of European, Asian and Arabic style sweets, including huge trays from which they will cut you the required quantity of a beautiful 'Turkish Delight-style sweet with cardamom and nuts).

SHOE AND WATCH REPAIRS

Close to the Mosque on Souq Waqif Street, you will find shoe repairers who can mend anything from shoes to luggage - quickly, cheaply and efficiently. There are also several small cubicles occupied by watch repairers inside the alleyways immediately opposite the mosque.

BLANKETS, LINENS, HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCES, ELECTRICAL GOODS, TEXTILES, SPORTSWEAR AND BOUTIQUES etc.

Moving towards Grand Hamad Street, which runs perpendicular to the Corniche, you have the old Irani souq along a spur of Al Ahmed street; there are a number of shops here selling things like tools, watches, clocks, batteries, and even table linen. There are several shops in the Irani souq which make cushions, and thin foam mattresses with embroidered or woven covers, such as are used in the traditional majlis (or reception room) or in tents, by those who will be sitting on the ground. There are several shops making aluminium trunks and storage chests, and in the area between the Irani souq and the mosque, you can find some of the traditional brass-studded wooden storage chests in different sizes.

The modern Souq Al Ahmed Building, facing Grand Hamad Street, is an airconditioned 'mall' with shops selling linen, blankets, perfume, household goods and clothes on the ground floor, with a wider selection of clothes shops upstairs. Incidentally, this is one of the souqs which has cloakroom facilities for both men and women!

Cross Grand Hamad Street onto the main part of Al Ahmed Street and you will find several complexes, as well as individual stores and boutiques. Doha Souq has a large number of textile shops selling the more expensive fabrics, including silks, laces, and speciality ranges like lamé, sequins, beaded and embroidered fabrics. [It also has a number of perfume shops]. For a wonderful range of cheaper fabrics, try Souq Al Asiery (commonly referred to as 'the escalator souq' because it was the first souq to install one). Downstairs, the shops have medium-priced textiles, whilst upstairs there is a vast selection from as little as QR 3 or 4 per metre. There are several menswear boutiques upstairs in Souq Al Asiery and lining the length of Al Ahmed Street. Souq Al Jabor has a number of lingerie shops, and shops selling shoes and handbags or luggage. Backing onto Souq Al Jabor, but giving onto Jaber Bin Mohammed Street are a whole group of stores selling sports goods and sportswear, whilst on the other side of Souq Al Jabor - lining Al Jabr Street - are a number of ladies' boutiques. Just in from the corner of Al Jabor and Al Tarbiya Streets is a shop selling every conceivable kind of sewing accessory - from ribbons and laces to buttons, beads, appliques and sewing equipment, as well as embroidery, tapestry and rug kits. It is one of the largest speciality stores in the whole of the Gulf and has an absolutely amazing selection, including some attractive costume jewellery. It is used not only by individuals, but by most of the tailoring shops in town!

Souq Faleh has a number of shops selling electrical and electronic items as well as music cassettes and CDs.

The interior of Souq Al Ahmad

GOLD AND SILVER JEWELLERY

If you are looking for gold (or silver) jewellery, then whilst there are a vast number of shops scattered around town, you may prefer the atmosphere (and the ease of comparing designs) which comes with a trip to the gold souq. Situated behind the Al Fardan Centre and just off Grand Hamad Street, the gold souq consists of one whole block of small shops devoted to gold jewellery. It's worth a visit just to see the wonderful variety, including the traditional 'bridal jewellery' which is given to Qatari girls by their husbands-to-be prior to the wedding. It includes spectacular solid gold belts and ornate necklaces, hair ornaments, headdresses, earrings, rings and bracelets (there are also rings joined by chains to bracelets). There are plenty of Arab, Asian and western designs, and for most pieces, the price is according to the weight of the gold plus a small charge per gram for making. One popular gift is to have a necklace made displaying the name of the recipient in gold. Craftsmen can produce the necklaces both in Arabic and English. And if you have a ring or bracelet you need re-sized, or a chain that needs repair, then the craftsmen here can come to your rescue!

Some of the jewellers have just a few pieces of old silver Bedouin jewellery, and others have modern pieces in silver for both men and women. In this same area, there are several shops which deal in second-hand watches, including Rolex.

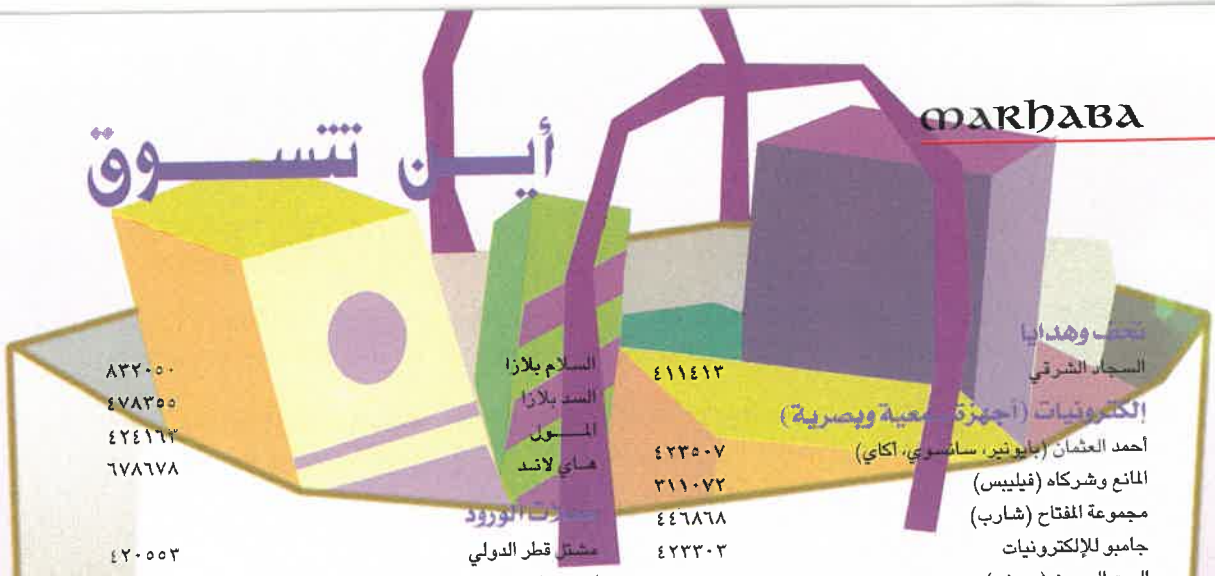
TAILORS

There are several tailoring shops in the main souq, but you will find groups of them scattered in every area of town. They work without patterns, and can make men's, women's or children's wear either by copying an existing garment or just from a little sketch! Some of the ladies' tailors specialise in embroidery or bead work, and again the embroiderers can copy designs, follow your instructions or design something for you. They will supply the beads and embroidery threads, and can often also supply lining material, co-ordinating or contrasting fabrics for cuffs, collars etc. if you haven't had time to buy them. Men's tailors can produce anything from a thobe to a three-piece suit. Prices are extremely reasonable, and the standard of workmanship is, in general, high.

There is no problem in walking round and exploring the souq on your own. It is perfectly safe and you're bound to enjoy the experience. It also provides plenty of photo opportunities. However, since many people here do not actually like having their photograph taken (even if they are not the main subject) it is always advisable to ask if you can take a picture. You should also always avoid taking pictures which include local women.

Now it's time to go, explore the souq and have fun! Happy bargain hunting!

أين تتسوق



تحف وهدايا

السجاد الشرقي ٤١١٤١٣

إلكترونيات (أجهزة سمعية وبصرية)

أحمد العثمان (باينير، سانسوي، اكاي) ٤٢٣٥٠٧
المانع وشركاه (فيليبس) ٣١١٠٧٢
مجموعة المفتاح (شارب) ٤٤٦٨٦٨
جامبو للإلكترونيات ٤٢٣٣٠٣
البيت الحديث (سوني) ٤٢٢٨١٥
دوماسكو (سانيو) ٤١١٠٧٠
تكنو تريد (هيتاشي) ٣٢٢٥٠٠
تريدتيك (كاسيو) ٣٢٢٥٩٥

قرطاسية ومكتبات

مكتبة العائلة ٤٢٤١٤٨

بوتيكات

بيتي باركلي (مركز المانع) ٤٤٨٩٩٩
سيبل (شارع السد) ٤٤٣٣٧٤
نكست (المول) ٦٧٨٢٢٢
سكادا (مركز المانع) ٤٢٧٧٣٣
جوتشي (مركز الفردان) ٤٢٩٥٢٤
أوسيس(المول) ٦٧٨٨٨١
مانغو (المول) ٦٧٨١٨١
ماكسمارا (مركز الفردان) ٣٦٤٦٠٠
ميلانو (المول) ٦٧٨٨٩٩
البوتيك الأوروبي (شارع السد) ٣٢٨٤٨٥

أدوات تجميل وعطور

المفتاح (جرلان) ٤٤٦٨٦٧
الصالون الأزرق (كلارنس) ٤٤١٤٢٤
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"FOOD FOR THOUGHT"

Doha has a wide variety of eating places, providing everything from fine French to exotic Asian cuisine, with everything in between, not forgetting those quickly served burgers!

Only tried and tested establishments are on the Marhaba "Where to Eat" list, so whether it's a special dinner, a family meal or sandwiches for the office, we are sure you'll be happy with your choice.

RESTAURANTS

Al Banuche	Continental	Doha Marriott Gulf Hotel	432432
Al Hubara	Theme/International	Sheraton Doha Hotel	854444
Al Majlis	Lebanese/Arabic	Al Sadd Street	447417
Al Mina	French	Doha Marriott Gulf Hotel	432432
Al Shaheen	International	Sheraton Doha Hotel	854444
Bangkok Thai	Thai/Chinese	Suhaim Bin Hamad Street	365423
Bukhara	Tandoori	Khalifa Tennis & Squash Complex	833345
Caravan	Indian/Chinese/Continental	Ramada Junction	320320
Chinatown	Chinese	AlMuntazah Plaza	314985
Chingari	Tandoori	Ramada Hotel	417417
Doha Club	International	Doha Club	418822
Far East	Thai/Chinese	Al Mirqab Street	411669
Fuddruckers	American Steaks/Salads	Khalifa Tennis & Squash Complex	833983
Hyde Park	International	Ramada Hotel	417417
Il Mediterraneo	Mediterranean	Doha Golf Club	832338
La Brasserie	Continental	Sofitel Hotel	435222
La Veranda	Italian Bistro	Sheraton Doha Hotel	854444
Le Rendezvous	French	Sofitel Hotel	435222
Maxim	Fine Dining	Ramada Hotel	417417
Pearl Restaurant	Int'l/Oriental	Sealine Beach Resort	772722
Pirates Cove	BBQ/Thai	Sheraton Doha Hotel	854444
Ponderosa	American Steaks/Salads	Ramada Junction	355880
Shebestan	Persian	Al Sadd Street	321555
Star of India	Indian/Asian/Continental	Al Markhiya	864440
Star of India	Indian/Asian/Continental	Al Bidda	426128
Thai Kitchen	Thai	Al Mirqab Street	414067

FAST FOOD OUTLETS

Arby's	Roast Beef/Burgers	Ramada Junction	361361
American Fried Chicken	Chicken/Burgers	Ramada Junction	320444
Burger King	Burgers (Chicken, Beef, Fish)	Suhaim Bin Hamad Street	431391
Dairy Queen	Burgers/Grills	Ramada Junction	320282
Pizza Hut	American Pizza	Ramada Junction	416677
AlTazaj Fakieh	B-B-Q Chicken	Ramada Junction	367367
Taco Bell	Mexican	Ramada Junction	350011
Macburger	Burgers/Grills	Ramada Junction	320444

ICE CREAM PARLOURS

Baskin Robbins	Dairy Ice Cream	The Centre	440202
Dairy Queen	Ice Cream/Sundaes	Ramada Junction	320982
TCBY	Frozen Yoghurt	Ramada Junction	321122

COFFEE SHOPS

Al Hubara	Coffee/Pastries/Meals	Sheraton Doha Hotel	854444
Doha Club	Coffee/Salads and daily Lunch and Dinner specials		418822
Eli France	Coffee/Pastries	Salwa Road	357111
Internet Cafe	Coffee/Snacks	AlKhaleej (Gulf) Street	350070
Drive-in Pastry	Coffee/Pastries	Hotel Sofitel	435222
Lobby Cafe	Coffee/Pastries	Doha Marriott Gulf Hotel	432432
Opera Cafe	Coffee/Pastries	The Mall	678885
Palm Garden	Coffee/Pastries	Ramada Hotel	417417

STAR OF INDIA RESTAURANT

- Over 16 main dishes, 12 salads, 2 soups, and 3 desserts
- Authentic Indian, Chinese and Arabic Cuisine
- Exclusive family dining area
- Ample car parking space

Markhiya Restaurant,
TV Roundabout
Tel. 864440

Al Bida Restaurant
Tel. 426128

TO ADVERTISE
YOUR RESTAURANT
IN THIS SPACE
TEL. 655533

FUDDRUCKERS
Casual Dining
RESTAURANTS

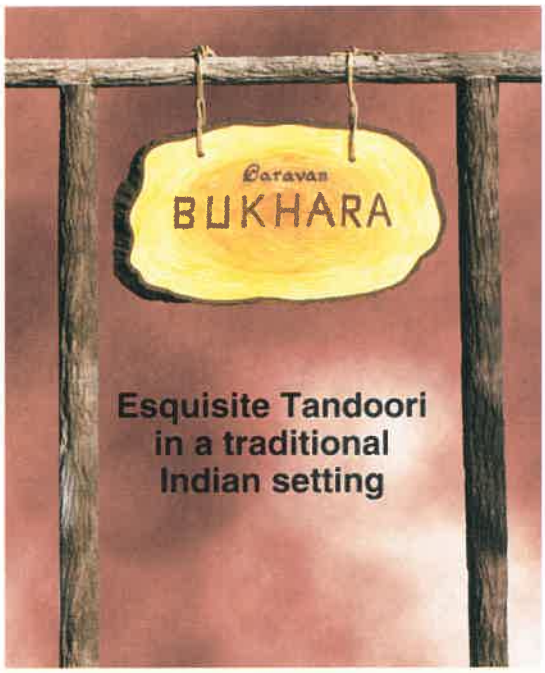
Khalifa International Tennis & Squash Complex
Tel. 833983, 833893

SHEBESTAN
P·A·L·A·C·E
Restaurant

Exotic Persian Cuisine
renowned for its satisfying taste
and flavour, prepared by our
Master
Chef from Persia.

10 am - 2 pm
6 pm - 12 midnight
Al Sadd Street

Tel. 425599, 422266



Khalifa International Tennis & Squash Complex
Tel. 833345

BANGKOK THAI RESTAURANT

SUHAIM BIN HAMAD STREET

Open daily: 11 am – 3 pm
5 pm – midnight

- TAKEAWAY SERVICE
- HOME DELIVERY
- PARTIES CATERED

TEL. 365423

Doha's Original Sandwich Delivery Service

JG SANDWICH CELLAR

Your order is individually prepared from fresh produce immediately prior to delivery.

Tel./Fax Jackie on 357936

Dairy Queen

HOT EATS COOL TREATS

OPEN 24 HOURS!

RAMADA JUNCTION, SALWA ROAD
TEL: 320982

31 Baskin Robbins®

Where wonders never cease

CAFÉ Batteel

A wonderful place where the past and present meet – and sail away together into the future.

Salwa Road, Tel. 441414

doha club

RESTAURANT
International cuisine for the most discerning.
Lunch: 12 noon – 2.30 pm
Dinner: 7 pm – 10 pm

COFFEE SHOP
Extensive family menu, daily special lunch.

Tel. 417855 or 418822

Genuine Tandoori Restaurant
7 pm to 12 midnight,
Sunday to Friday.

Thurs Noon - 3pm
Tiffin Curry Lunch

Ramada Hotel Doha
Tel. 417417

Pizza Hut®

Sat - Wed 11 am - 11.30 pm
Thursday 11 am - 12.30 am
Friday 12.30 pm - 11.30 pm

Tel. 416677, 350033, 350044

Pan, Stuffed Crust, Thin N' Crispy...
Pizza is what we are famous for!

Caravan RESTAURANT

A vast menu suits Continental,
Middle Eastern & Asian tastes!

PONDEROSA Steakhouse

11 am - Midnight 6 Days a week
Friday 12 noon - Midnight

Tel. 355880

Juicy Steaks, Lamb, Chicken, Seafood...
and All-You-Can-Eat Grand Buffet!

TACO BELL®

10 am - Midnight 7 Days a week

Tel. 350011

Tacos, Burritos, Nachos... A whole choice
for a meal with that Mexican taste!

Arby's®

9 am - 12.30 past Midnight
7 Days a week

Tel. 361361, 871611

Baked Potatoes, Salads,
Roast Beef & Chicken
Sandwiches, Sub Rolls
and Burgers

STERLING COMPLEX -

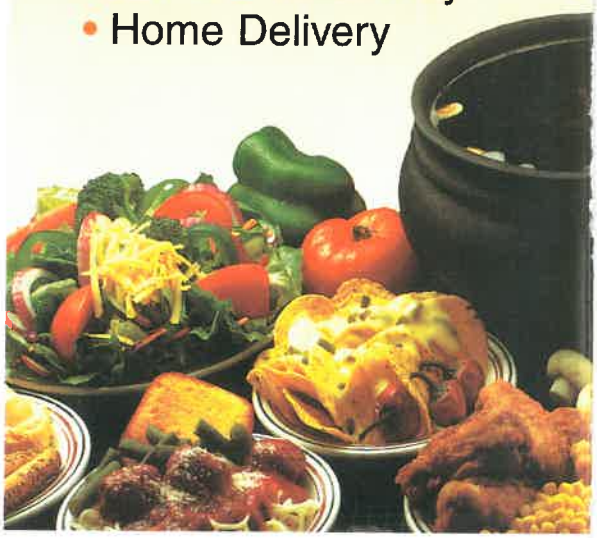
If you want real choice, you can't do better than choose Sterling!

Eight restaurants at our Ramada Junction complex ensure that all those who want to eat in fine style can find something to their taste.

Kids love fast food, but often don't want anything spicy. Health-watchers love salads and low fat foods; vegetarians like a good choice; and juicy steaks have their following too! Sterling offers all of this - and more!

Each of our restaurants offers a wide range of dishes to meet all tastes.

- Eat-in • Take-Away
- Home Delivery



Sat - Wed 12 noon - 3 pm
& 6 pm - 11 pm

Thurs & Fri 12 noon - 3.30 pm
& 6 pm - 11.30 pm

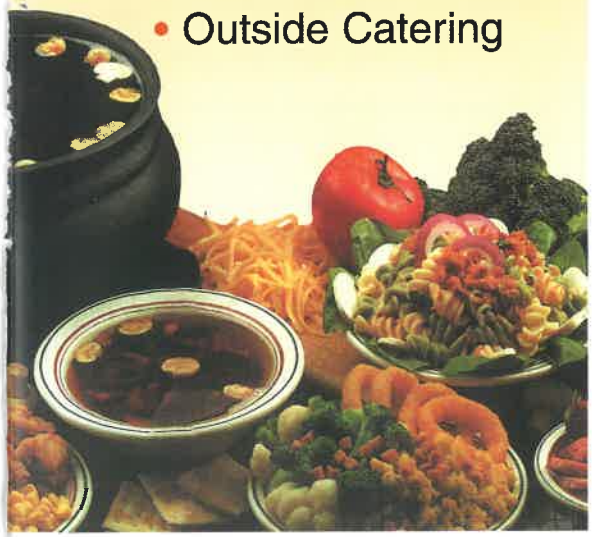
Tel. 412277
Take-Away 320 320 or 325 100

A WORLD OF FINE FOOD

And if you want a take-away meal, you can even collect a combination of several different cuisines, easily, all from one location and most of our Ramada Junction restaurants offer drive-through facilities or the ultimate in convenience - home delivery!

Sterling restaurants offer high quality ingredients, well prepared, in pleasing surroundings - and without breaking the bank! So who wants to cook when they get home after a busy day at school, work or play? Go on, spoil yourself! Start by visiting the Sterling Complex at Ramada Junction.

- Parties
- Outside Catering



AFC

10 am - Midnight 7 Days a week

Tel. 320444

Chicken - Pressure Fried, Soft & Juicy or Crispy & Spicy with Salads and Sweets

AL-TAZAJ FAKIEH
BAR-B-Q CHICKEN

Sat - Wed 12 noon - 3 pm & 5.30 - 11.30 pm
Thursday 12 noon - 3 pm & 5.30 - 12 midnight
Friday 12 noon - 11.30 pm

Tel. 367 367

"TCBY"®

The Country's Best Yogurt

10 am - Midnight 7 Days a week

Tel. 321122

Frozen Yogurt, Ice Cream and Gourmet Cakes

Macburger

10 am - Midnight 7 Days a week

Tel. 320444

CAFÉ Batteel

The car park of Batteel Café and Bakery never seems to be empty, whatever time of day or evening you pass by. The reason is quite simple; the café serves a wonderful and ever-expanding selection of wholesome, healthy and very tasty 'home-baked-style' delicacies and salads. Batteel Café caters to those clients who want to dine in during the day or the evening - or just stop by for fresh juice or an outstanding selection of tea and coffee. But an increasing number of customers are taking crispy lunchtime rolls and filled croissant back to the office for brunch!

Batteel also produces a wonderful selection of cakes and gateaux - anything from a Mango Mousse Tarte to a Black Forest Gateau or a Kiwi Cake, by-passing just about every other kind of chocolate or fruit temptation you could name on the way! A selection of cakes are available in the shop every day, and you can buy them complete or by the slice. However to be sure of getting exactly what you need, it's best to place an order ahead of time. Unusually for Doha, Batteel also bakes multi-tiered heavy fruit, Royal Iced wedding cakes - but of course they do need some advanced notice!

When Batteel opened, specialist equipment was brought in from Europe for the production of hand-made chocolates and ice cream. The chocolates - dark, milk or white - come in different shapes and with a variety of fillings (for example, hazlenut praline cream, peanut praline, macadamia praline and coconut cream). They are made fresh every two days or so, and have a 'shelf-life' of twenty one days. They are absolutely delicious, and retail at QR200 per kilo. (Batteel makes 26kg per week for the airlines here alone!) The chocolate is imported in blocks from Switzerland and Germany, the fillings in tubs from Switzerland. Batteel also has a lovely range of Italian gift boxes you can choose from if you're giving the chocolates as a present.

The ice-cream made at Batteel is really for customers in the Café - but it has proved to be so popular that the shop now has insulated four and six scoop take-away containers. There are some unusual flavours available which include tiramisu, torroncino, ameretto and cioccoriso as well as strawberry, coffee, vanilla and orange Arabic vanilla, grapefruit and melon. A number of the ice creams have the added bonus of being low fat!

Batteel bakery is proving that bread is much more than just a staple item in our daily diet! It offers a mouth-watering range of almost forty different breads and rolls - and that figure will soon move to nearer sixty! The delicious brown whole grain, wholemeal and 'Hovis' loaves rub crusts with other speciality breads from around the world such as Turkmenistan Vogels - but they're all freshly baked on the premises. The Bakery, at the side of Batteel Café on Salwa Road, also offers a unique 'par-bake' service on some of its loaves and rolls. If you order in advance, they will prepare partly baked bread for you to put in the freezer at home. You need not run out of bread any more - just pop a par-baked loaf in the oven from your freezer stock! It's ideal if you're planning parties or barbeques later in the week but your shopping time is limited - and it's a boon for those who are resident out of town and don't have such a wide choice of bread in their area!

A number of new services are being introduced by Batteel this September, and the café will be further expanding its eat-in and take-away menus to include things like steak and kidney pie, Cornish pasties and chicken pie.

Next time you drive down Salwa Road, don't just pass by. Stop and go in to Batteel Café. Sit and relax there with a meal or a snack - or take something home with you! Batteel also sell a small range of up-market and organic teas and coffees etc., all attractively packaged and also suitable as gifts.

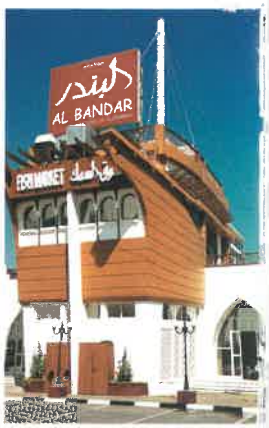
ENJOY A MEAL 'ON BOARD'

WITHOUT EVER LEAVING DRY LAND!

Now that the cooler weather is creeping back, what could be more pleasing than to have the opportunity to dine out of doors? Al Gharbi, Al Sharqui and the Fish Market are three dhow-shaped restaurants on the Corniche at the end of the dhow port jetty. They are flanked by two separate cafes, Ghorob and Sahran, and the five outlets of Al Bandar Group offer not just good food, but an amazing view across Doha Bay!

If your preference is to eat inside, that's no problem; if you choose to eat 'alfresco', then the garden terrace bordering the sea links all the restaurants in the group - and you can select your favourite dishes from any of the menus.

The restaurant interiors - like the exteriors - are modelled on those of ships, but the settings are plush and the nautical theme of brass lights and ships' wheels are enhanced by draped curtains and attractive table settings. There are both downstairs and upstairs restaurants in Al Gharbi, the Fish Market and Al Sharqui, the top level looking straight out across the turquoise waters of the Gulf. By day the view is stunning, by night it is spectacular - climbing the stairs is well worth the effort, but the upstairs restaurants are reserved for ladies and families or for private functions.



If you just want a snack or something to drink, you can still order from one of the two cafes and sit outside on Al Bandar's terrace, although a proportion of the tables there are reserved for restaurant customers ordering a full meal.

The three main restaurants are linked by stairs and walkways, whilst the terrace itself is open. There is no problem in mixing menus, but Al Gharbi serves mainly western and international cuisine; Al Sharqui serves mainly Lebanese dishes, and the Fish Market, as the name implies, offers a wide

variety of seafood and fresh-water fish.

The three main restaurants are open both for lunch and dinner (noon to 3.30pm and 6.30 to midnight), as is Ghorob cafe. Snacks or a buffet are available at Sahran. It is open 24 hours a day, offering a welcome venue for night-owls, those on shift work or people just unable to sleep!

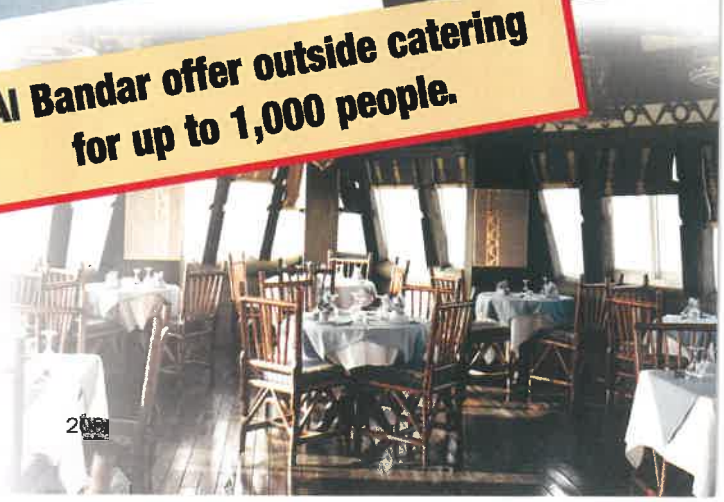
The food is fresh, well prepared and cooked and the service is friendly; Al Bandar want to meet their clients' needs and preferences, so the menus are always changing and, with prior notice, the chefs will always try to meet requests for dishes not on the usual list. If you don't have time to eat out, then you can order a takeaway from any of the restaurants. (You get a 25% discount at Al Sharqui and 20% at the Fish Market). If you want to eat at the restaurant but don't want to wait too long for the more intricate dishes to be cooked and served you can always reserve a table and phone in your orders in advance!

Al Bandar also have available the traditional 'nargileh' or water pipes for those who would like to sit and smoke with their friends whilst they drink their tea or coffee - and there is a most amazing selection of coloured and decorated pipes to choose from!

Al Bandar restaurants are conveniently located and easy to find both for Doha residents and visitors to town, and the setting really is one of the most beautiful imaginable!

For further details of the restaurants or the coffee shops, call : 311818

Al Bandar offer outside catering for up to 1,000 people.



BURGER KING
Tastier Because It's Flame Grilled

Suhaim Bin Hamad St., Tel. 431391
Al Markhiya, Tel. 863272
Airport Road, Tel. 651837

Maxim
French and Continental cuisine at its best,
Lunch & Dinner, Saturday to Thursday.
Ramada Hotel Doha
Tel. 417417

doha club
COFFEE SHOP
A La Carte EXTENSIVE FAMILY MENU
Daily special Lunch Noon - 2 pm
Daily special Dinner 7 pm- 9 pm

NON DOHA CLUB MEMBERS WELCOME

Al-Bandar
Restaurants
on the Doha Corniche

AL GHARBI RESTAURANT
International & Western Cuisine
THE FISH MARKET
Fish at its best
AL SHARQUI
International, Lebanese & Arabic Cuisine
Lunch
12 noon - 3.30 pm
Dinner
6.30 pm - Midnight
Tel. 311818

Chinatown
Restaurant
Traditional Chinese Cuisine
Lunch: Noon - 2 pm
Dinner: 6 pm - Midnight

AL-MUNTAZAH PLAZA
Tel. 314985

مطاعم مختارة

المطاعم

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BUSINESS INFORMATION

USEFUL INFORMATION AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

MINISTRY OF FINANCE, ECONOMY & COMMERCE

Central Tenders Committee
P. O. Box 1908, Doha, Qatar
Telephone : 439360

QATAR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

P.O. Box 402, Doha, Qatar
Telephone : 621131
Fax : 622538

CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT

Telephone : 457457

CENTRAL STATISTICAL ORGANISATION

Telephone : 497497

QATAR BRITISH BUSINESS FORUM

Established in January 1993, this forum has the active participation of the British Embassy There is a current membership of 110. Further information can be obtained from the British Embassy Tel. 421991.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Accession Day - June 27th

Eid Al Fitr

Eid Al Adha

Independence Day - September 3rd

EXHIBITIONS & CONFERENCES

Qatar International Exhibition Centre

This modern complex covers a site of 10,000 square metres and is in the West Bay area of Doha. For further information please telephone on 831666.

World Trade Center

Qatar is a member of the well known World Trade Center Association of New York, a non-political, non-governmental organisation which aims to foster international trade through its worldwide branch system of World Trade Centers. The WTC - Qatar therefore aims to be a business "shopping center", complementing and supporting the existing services of private and government agencies. For further details please contact Mr. Omar Abu Salma, Sales and Marketing Manager on Tel. 354 141 or Fax 423 048.

In addition, conference facilities are offered by all major hotels.

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS

Points of entry :

- Doha International Airport
- Salwa Overland Customs
- Mesaieed Port
- Doha Port
- Ras Laffan Port

General cargo entering Qatar normally transits either the overland terminal, Doha airport or Doha seaport terminal.

Customs duty charges on CIF value

General cargo	4%
Cigarettes, tobacco and its derivatives	50%
Steel	20%
Urea & ammonia	30%

Temporary import

Temporary importation into Qatar requires prior permission from the Director-General of Customs for each individual shipment. In addition, a cheque or bank guarantee must be placed with Customs covering the dutiable amount on deposit basis for the duration of the utilisation of the material in Qatar. Deposit will be returned after proof of export from Qatar has been provided.

The normal duration for temporary import is six months with a normal option to extend for an additional six months.

AGCC Importation

On cargo of which at least 50% is manufactured within the AGCC States, no customs duty is applied. If less than 50%, duty relief is applied only on the percentage of the cargo which is AGCC manufactured.

Documentation requirements

Original pro-forma invoice. Invoice and certificate of origin must be legalised/endorsed in the country of origin by an Arab consulate.

Normal customs clearance duration
Air - One to two days
Sea - Two to four days

No container size restrictions are in effect at Doha port.

NEWSPAPERS

There are two English daily newspapers published in Qatar, the Gulf Times and Peninsula. Other English dailies such as Gulf News and Khaleej Times from UAE are also available. There are three Qatari Arabic dailies, Al-Rayah, Al-Sharq and Al-Watan.

BUSINESS HOURS

Government offices are open from 6 am to 1 pm daily, except for Friday which is the Moslem day of rest, when all banks and offices are closed.

From Saturday to Thursday all banks are open from 7.30 am to 12 noon/11.30 am, and commercial offices are open from 7.30 am to 12 noon, and again between 3.30 pm and 7 pm.

معلومات تجارية

معلومات وأرقام مفيدة لرجال الأعمال

وزارة المالية والإقتصاد والتجارة
لجنة المناقصات المركزية
ص. ب ١٩٠٨، الدوحة ، هاتف ٤٣٩٣٦٠

غرفة تجارة وصناعة قطر
ص. ب ٤٠٢، الدوحة ، هاتف ٦٢١١٣١، فاكس ٦٢٢٥٢٨

إدارة الجمارك
هاتف ٤٥٧٤٥٧

الجهاز المركزي للإحصاء
هاتف ٤٩٧٤٩٧

مجموعة رجال الأعمال البريطانين في قطر
تأسست في يناير ١٩٩٣ ولها إتصال نشيط ومباشر بالسفارة البريطانية، ويبلغ عدد أعضائها الحاليين ٧١٠
لمزيد من المعلومات يرجى الإتصال بالسفارة البريطانية
هاتف ٤٢١٩٩١

العطلات الرسمية

يوم الجلوس	٢٧ يونيو
عيد الفطر	
عيد الأضحى	
يوم الإستقلال	٣ سبتمبر

المعارض والمؤتمرات
مركز قطر الدولي للمعارض
يقع في منطقة الخليج الغربي، ومبني على أحدث طراز، ويغطي مساحة ١٠,٠٠٠ م٢
لمزيد من المعلومات يرجى الإتصال هاتف ٨٣١٦٦٦

مركز التجارة العالمي
قطر عضو في إتحاد مراكز التجارة العالمية بنيويورك، وهي منظمة غير سياسية وغير حكومية، وتهدف الى تشجيع التجارة العالمية من خلال مراكزها المنتشرة في جميع أنحاء العالم.
لمزيد من المعلومات يرجى الإتصال بالسيد/ عمر أبوسالمة مدير المبيعات والتسويق هاتف ٣٥٤١٤١، فاكس ٤٢٣٠٤٨
بالإضافة الى ماسبق تسهيلات المؤتمرات متوفرة بكبرى الفنادق بالدوحة.

التنظيم الجمركي
نقاط الدخول:
- مطار الدوحة الدولي
- جمرك منفذ سلوى البري
- ميناء مسيعيد
- ميناء الدوحة
- ميناء راس لفان

بصفة عامة البضائع الواردة لقطر ترد من خلال المنفذ البري أو مطار الدوحة أو ميناء الدوحة.

الرسوم الجمركية على قيمة البضائع-CIF

بضائع عامة	٤ ٪
التبغ والسجائر	٥٠٪
الحديد	٢٠٪
اليوريا والأمونيا	٣٠٪

الإستيراد المؤقت
الإستيراد المؤقت لدولة قطر يتطلب الحصول على تصريح مسبق من مدير إدارة الجمارك وذلك لكل شحن على حده.
كما يتطلب الأمر إصدار شيك أو ضمانه بنكية لصالح إدارة الجمارك كتامين لحين إعادة تصدير البضاعة الى خارج قطر.
الفترة المسموح بها للإستيراد الموقت هي ٦ شهور قابلة للتجديد لمدة ٦ شهور أخرى.

الإستيراد من دول مجلس التعاون الخليجي
تعفى البضائع المصنعة داخل دول مجلس التعاون (حد أدنى ٥٠٪) من الرسوم الجمركية، أما في حالة إستيراد بضائع تبلغ نسبة التصنيع بها أقل من ٥٠٪ يتم تحصيل الرسوم على قيمة نسبة التصنيع خارج دول مجلس التعاون.

المستندات المطلوبة
فاتورة مبدئية، فاتورة أصلية وشهادة منشأ موثقة ومصدقة في بلد المنشأ من أي قنصلية عربية.

الفترة الإعتيادية لتخليص البضائع
جواً : من يوم الى يومين
براً : من يومين الى أربعة أيام

الجرائد
تصدر في قطر ٥ جرائد، ٣ باللغة العربية وجريدتين باللغة الإنجليزية، ، والجرائد العربية هي الراية، الشرق، الوطن
أما الجرائد الإنجليزية فهي جلف تايمز وبنينسولا.

ساعات العمل
القطاع الحكومي
من الساعة السادسة صباحاً وحتى الواحدة ظهراً

البنوك
من الساعة السابعة والنصف صباحاً وحتى الحادية عشر والنصف صباحاً

القطاع الخاص
من الساعة السابعة والنصف صباحاً وحتى الساعة الثانية عشر ظهراً
ومن الثالثة والنصف عصراً وحتى السابعة مساءً

GENERAL INFORMATION

USEFUL INFORMATION AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

ACCIDENT & EMERGENCY

Hamad Medical Corporation	392222

AIRLINES & TRAVEL AGENCIES

Air France (Ali Bin Ali Travel)	441161
Air India	324111
Biman Bangladesh	413422
British Airways	321434
Egypt Air	458458
Emirates	418877
Gulf Air	455444
KLM	321208
Kuwait Airways	435340
PIA	426290
Qatar Airways	333777
Royal Jordanian	431431
Saudi Arabian	322991
Sri Lankan (Ali Bin Ali Travel)	441161
Ali Bin Ali Travel Bureau	441161
Darwish Travel & Tourism	422411
Darwish Travel Bureau	427111
Qatar Travels	428001
Qatar Tours	424112

BANKS

Al Ahli Bank of Qatar	326611
ANZ Grindlays Bank	418222
Arab Bank	437979
Bank Saderat Iran	414646
Banque Paribas	433844
Commercial Bank of Qatar	490222
Doha Bank Limited	435444
HSBC (ex-BritishBank)	423124
Mashreq Bank	413213
Qatar Islamic Bank	409409
Qatar National Bank	407407
Standard Chartered Bank	414252

CAR RENTAL

Avis	447766
Budget	419500
Europcar	438404
Hertz	416891

COURIER SERVICE

Aramex	426101
DHL	434209
Federal Express	661722
TNT Express Worldwide	414911
UPS	322444

CURRENCY

The unit of currency is the Qatar Riyal, which is divided into 100 dirhams. Currency is issued by the Qatar Central Bank. Denominations are issued as follows:

Qatar Riyals: 1, 5, 10, 50, 100, and 500

Dirhams: 25 and 50

The US Dollar is fixed against the Qatar Riyal. $1 = QR 3.65

There are no exchange control regulations.

Currency can be exchanged at the following:

Almana Exchange	424226
Al Fardan Exchange & Finance	408214
Al Shaibei Finance & Exchange	327621
City Exchange	414632
Gulf Finance & Exchange	428211
Habib Qatar International Finance	422373

DRESS RESTRICTIONS

Qatar is an Islamic State and, as a courtesy, visitors should dress modestly. Normal swimwear, including bikinis, is acceptable on the beach or by the pool, but T-shirts and discreet covering of the legs is desirable if you move away from these areas. Topless sunbathing is not permitted.

You should be particularly conscious of your dress when visiting any of the large stores, souqs, or other areas frequented by mixed nationalities. Women should avoid wearing shoestring strap tops, shorts, and see-through fabrics. Men should also tbe conscious of their attire, and should avoid vest-type T-shirts and brief shorts.

EMBASSIES

Algeria	662900
Bangladesh	671927
Britain	421991
China	884200
Egypt	832555
France	832283
Germany	876959
India	672025
Iran	835300
Iraq	672237

GENERAL INFORMATION

USEFUL INFORMATION AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Italy	436842
Japan	831224
Jordan	832202
Korea (South)	832238
Kuwait	832111
Lebanon	477773
Mauritania	836003
Morocco	831885
Oman	670744
Pakistan	832525
Palestine	422531
Philippines	831585
Romania	444348
Russia	329117
Saudi Arabia	832030
Somalia	832200
Sudan	423007
Syria	831844
Tunisia	832646
Turkey	835204
United Arab Emirates	882833
United States of America	864701
Yemen	432555

EMERGENCIES

Police	999
Fire	999
Ambulance	999

HOTELS

Hotel Sofitel Doha Palace	435222
New Doha Palace	426131
Oasis	424424
Ramada Hotel	417417
Sealine Beach Resort	772722
Sheraton Doha Hotel & Resort	854444
Doha Marriott Gulf Hotel	432432
Shezan	865225

HOURS OF BUSINESS

Government offices are open from 6 am to 1 pm daily except for Friday which is the Moslem day of rest and on which all banks and offices are closed. From Saturday to Thursday banks are open from 7.30 to 11.30, and commercial offices are open from 7.30 to 12 noon and again between 3.30 and 7 pm.

Shops are generally open from 8.30 am to 12.30 pm and 4 to 9 pm, although some of the larger department stores and malls have extended operating hours.

INFORMATION SERVICES

Telephone directory	180
Telephone assistance (local)	100
International calls - enquiries	190
International calls - bookings	150
Speaking clock (English)	140
Speaking clock (Arabic)	141
Telegram enquiries	130
Doha Airport - enquiries	656666
Flight enquiries	622999

MEDICAL FACILITIES

Medical and dental treatment is available to visitors at local health centres for a nominal charge. These centres are located throughout the country and are recognisable by the distinctive green hexagonal "lollipop" outside each one, There are also a number of private dental and medical practices in Doha.

Dr. Odd Overoyen (Dental)	675225
Dr. Amal Badi (Gynecologist)	324349
Dr. Deborah Overoyen (Dental)	675995
Dr. John Heap (Medical)	477475
Queen Dental Clinic	860024
Family Dental Clinic	442924
Dr. Sarah Aalders (Dental)	477175

MUSEUM & ZOO

Qatar National Museum is open from 9am. to noon except Friday and Saturday, and from 16.00 to 19.00 except Saturday. Tuesday afternoon is reserved for families only.

The Doha Zoo is open daily from 3pm. to 9pm. except Saturdays.

PHOTOGRAPHY

There are many photographic opportunities in Qatar, but the utmost discretion should be used when photographing local residents and it is wise to ask their permission first.

TIME

GMT plus 3 hours.

معلومات وأرقام مفيدة

الحوادث والطوارىء

مؤسسة حمد الطبية	٣٩٢٢٢٢

شركات الطيران ووكلات السياحة

الخطوط الجوية الفرنسية (سفريات علي بن علي)	٤٤١١٦١
الخطوط الهندية	٣٢٤١١١
الخطوط السريلانكية (سفريات علي بن علي)	٤٤١١٦١
الخطوط البنجلاديشية	٤١٣٤٢٢
الخطوط البريطانية	٣٢١٤٣٤
مصر للطيران	٤٥٨٤٥٨
طيران الإمارات	٤١٨٨٧٧
طيران الخليج	٤٥٥٤٤٤
الخطوط الهولندية (KLM)	٣٢١٢٠٨
الخطوط الكويتية	٤٣٥٣٤٠
الخطوط الباكستانية	٤٢٦٢٩٠
الخطوط القطرية	٣٣٣٧٧٧
الملكية الأردنية	٤٣١٤٣١
الخطوط السعودية	٣٢٢٩٩١
سفريات علي بن علي	٤٤١١٦١
الدرويش للسفر والسياحة	٤٢٢٤١١
سفريات الدرويش	٤٢٧١١١
سفريات قطر	٤٢٨٠٠١
قطر تورز	٤٢٤١١٢

البنوك

البنك الأهلي القطري	٣٢٦٦١١
البنك العربي	٤٣٧٩٧٩
بنك صادرات إيران	٤١٤٦٤٦
بنك باريبا	٤٣٣٨٤٤
البنك البريطاني	٤٢٣١٢٤
البنك التجاري القطري	٤٩٠٢٢٢
بنك الدوحة المحدود	٤٣٥٤٤٤
بنك جريندليز	٤١٨٢٢٢
بنك المشرق	٤١٣٢١٣
مصرف قطر الإسلامي	٤٠٩٤٠٩
بنك قطر الوطني	٤٠٧٤٠٧
بنك ستاندر شارترد	٤١٤٢٥٢

مكاتب تأجير السيارات

إيفيس	٤٤٧٧٦٦
بدجت	٤١٩٥٠٠
يورو كار	٤٣٨٤٠٤
هيرتز	٤١٦٨٩١

خدمة البريد السريع

أرامكس	٤٢٦١٠١
دي إتش إل	٤٣٤٢٠٩
فيدرال إكسبريس	٦٦١٧٢٢
تي إن تي	٤١٤٩١١
يو بي إس	٣٢٢٤٤٤

العملة المتداولة

العملة المتداولة في قطر هي الريال القطري ،الذي يساوي ١٠٠ درهم قطري ويصدره مصرف قطر المركزي

فئات الريال مقسمة كالأتي:

ريال واحد ، ٥ ريال ، ١٠ ريال ، ٥٠ ريال ،

١٠٠ ريال و ٥٠٠ ريال

أما فئات الدرهم فهي ٢٥ درهم و ٥٠ درهم

بالنسبة لسعر الدولار الأمريكي فهو ثابت مقابل الريال القطري ،يبلغ سعر التحويل للدولار الأمريكي

٣,٦٥ ريال، ولاتوجد في قطر قيود حكومية للتحويل المصرفي ويمكن تحويل العملات من الأماكن التالية:

المانع للصرافة	٤٢٤٢٢٦
الفردان للصرافة	٤٢٦٥٤٤
الشيبي للصرافة	٣٢٧٦٢١
المدينة للصرافة	٤١٤٦٣٢
الخليج للصرافة	٤٢٨٢١١
حبيب قطر الدولية للصرافة	٤٢٢٣٧٣

السفارات والبعثات الدبلوماسية

الجزائر	٦٦٢٩٠٠
بنجلاديش	٦٧١٩٢٧
المملكة المتحدة	٤٢١٩٩١
الصين	٨٨٤٢٠٠
جمهورية مصر العربية	٨٣٢٥٥٥
فرنسا	٨٣٢٢٨٣
المانيا	٨٧٦٩٥٩
الهند	٦٧٢٠٢٥
إيران	٨٣٥٣٠٠

معلومات عامة

معلومات وأرقام مفيدة

العراق	٦٧٢٢٣٧
إيطاليا	٤٣٦٨٤٢
اليابان	٨٣١٢٢٤
الأردن	٨٣٢٢٠٢
كوريا الجنوبية	٨٣٢٢٣٨
الكويت	٨٣٢١١١
لبنان	٤٧٧٧٧٣
موريتانيا	٨٣٦٠٠٣
المغرب	٨٣١٨٨٥
عُمان	٦٧٠٧٤٤
الباكستان	٨٣٢٥٢٥
فلسطين	٤٢٢٥٣١
الفلبين	٨٣١٥٨٥
رومانيا	٤٤٤٣٤٨
روسيا	٣٢٩١١٧
السعودية	٨٣٢٠٣٠
الصومال	٨٣٢٢٠٠
السودان	٤٢٣٠٠٧
سوريا	٨٣١٨٤٤
تونس	٨٣٢٦٤٦
تركيا	٨٣٥٢٠٤
الإمارات العربية المتحدة	٨٨٢٨٣٣
الولايات المتحدة الأمريكية	٨٦٤٧٠١
اليمن	٤٣٢٥٥٥

الطوارىء

الشرطة	٩٩٩
المطافىء	٩٩٩
الإسعاف	٩٩٩

الفنادق والمنتجعات السياحية

فندق سوفتيل	٤٣٥٢٢٢
فندق دوحه بالاس	٤٢٦١٣١
الواحة	٤٢٤٤٢٤
الرامادا	٤١٧٤١٧
منتجع سيلين السياحي	٧٧٢٧٢٢
شيراتون الدوحة	٨٥٤٤٤٤
فندق ماريوت الخليج – الدوحة	٤٣٢٤٣٢
شيزان	٨٦٥٢٢٥

خدمات الإستعلامات

دليل الهاتف	١٨٠
للمساعدة في المكالمات المحلية	١٠٠
إستعلامات المكالمات الدولية	١٩٠
حجز المكالمات الدولية	١٥٠
الساعة الناطقة باللغة العربية	١٤١
الساعة الناطقة باللغة الإنجليزية	١٤٠
البرقيات	١٣٠
إستعلامات مطارالدوحة	٦٥٦٦٦٦
إستعلامات الرحلات الجوية	٦٢٢٩٩٩
إستعلامات ميناء الدوحة	٤٦٤٦٦٠

خدمات وتسهيلات طبية

الخدمات الصحية وعلاج الأسنان متوفرة للزوار في المراكز الصحية المحلية مقابل رسوم رمزية.

هذه المراكز الصحية منتشرة في جميع أنحاء البلاد ،يمكن تمييزها بالعلامات الخضراء السداسية الشكل ،المثبتة خارج هذه المراكز، بالإضافة الى عدد لا بأس به من عيادات الأسنان والمراكزالصحية الخاصة.

مؤسسة حمد الطبية	٣٩٢٢٢٢
الدكتور/ أوود إوفريون (أسنان)	٦٧٥٢٢٥
الدكتورة/ أمال بادي (نساء وتوليد)	٣٢٤٣٤٩
الدكتورة/ ديبورا أوفريون (أسنان)	٦٧٥٩٩٥
الدكتور/ جون هيب (ممارس عام)	٤٧٧٤٧٥
مركز الملكة للأسنان	٨٦٠٠٢٤
عيادة العائلة للأسنان	٤٤٢٩٢٤
دكتورة/ ساره ألدز	٤٧٧١٧٥

المتحف وحديقة الحيوان

متحف قطر الوطني يستقبل زائريه من التاسعة صباحاً وحتى الثانية عشر ظهراً عدا يومي الجمعة والسبت، ومن الرابعة عصراً وحتى السابعة مساءً عدا يوم السبت، الخميس عصراً مخصص للعائلات فقط.

أما حديقة الحيوان فهي تستقبل زائريها من الثالثة عصراً وحتى التاسعة مساءً عدا يوم السبت.

التصوير الفوتوغرافي

هناك العديد من الفرص الرائعة لهواة التصوير، ولكن يجب مراعاة التقاليد والعادات المحلية عند تصوير المواطنين، ويجب الإستئذان قبل التصوير.

التوقيت

توقيت جرينتش + ٣ ساعات

Embassies of the STATE OF QATAR

Country	Code	Telephone	Fax
ABU DHABI (UAE)	(971) 2	493300	493311
ALBANIA *	(call Turkey)		
ALGERIA	(213) 2	911159	912012
ARGENTINA *	(call New York, USA)		
AUSTRALIA *	(call Japan)		
AUSTRIA	(43) 1	3196639	3197086
AZERBAIJAN *	(call Turkey)		
BANGLADESH	(880)2	604477	883950
BELARUS *	(call Russian Federation)		
BELGIUM	(32) 2	6402900	6484078
BOSNIA HERZEGOVINA *	(call Italy)		
CANADA *	(call New York, USA)		
CHAD *	(call Sudan)		
CHILE *	(call Washington, USA)		
CHINA	(86) 10	65322231	65325274
COLOMBIA *	(call New York, USA)		
CUBA *	(call New York, USA)		
CYPRUS *	(call Syria)		
DENMARK *	(call United Kingdom)		
DJIBOUTI *	(call Riyadh, Saudi Arabia)		
EGYPT	(20) 2	3604694	3603618
ERITREA *	(call Egypt)		
ESTONIA *	(call Russian Federation)		
FINLAND*	(call Germany)		
FRANCE	(33) 1	45519071	45517707
GABON *	(call Morocco)		
GEORGIA *	(call Turkey)		
GERMANY	(49) 228	957502	9575255
GREECE *	(call France)		
HUNGARY *	(call Austria)		
INDIA (New Delhi)	(91) 11	6117241	6886080
INDONESIA	(62) 21	5277751	5277753
IRAN	(98) 21	2051255	2056023
IRAQ	(964) 1	5412186	5429056
IRELAND *	(call United Kingdom)		
ITALY	(39) 6	44249450	44245273
JAPAN	(81) 3	322439011	32243917
JORDAN	(962) 6	607311	648374
KUWAIT	(965)	2513599	2563428
LATVIA *	(call Russian Federation)		
LEBANON	(961) 1	865271	860460
LITHUANIA *	(call Russian Federation)		
MALAYSIA *	(call Islamabad, Pakistan)		
MALDIVES *	(call New Delhi, India)		
MALTA *	(call Italy)		

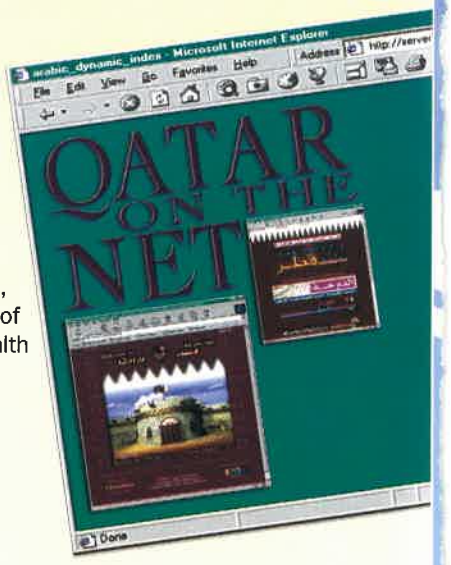
All visitors to Qatar, with the exception of GCC nationals, require entry visas; there are, however, special arrangements for expatriates holding residence permits in other GCC states. All travellers should check requirements with their nearest Qatari Embassy (listed below), which can also provide business, commercial or other information.

Also listed below are those countries which have Non-Resident Qatari Ambassadors. They have been marked (*) together with the name of the Qatari embassy to be contacted if you are in need of assistance.

Country	Code	Telephone	Fax
MAURITANIA	(222) 5	52399	56887
MAURITIUS *	(call Egypt)		
MEXICO *	(call Washington, USA)		
MOROCCO	(212) 7	765774	763945
NEPAL*	(call New Delhi, India)		
NETHERLANDS *	(call United Kingdom)		
NEW ZEALAND *	(call Japan)		
NORWAY *	(call United Kingdom)		
OMAN	(968)	701802	691156
PAKISTAN (Islamabad)	(92) 51	826483	820868
PALESTINE	(972) 7	825922	825932
PHILIPPINES	(63) 2	8128144	8128133
POLAND *	(call Austria)		
PORTUGAL *	(call Belgium)		
ROMANIA	(40) 0	2304741	2305446
RUSSIAN FEDERATION	(7) 095	2301577	2302240
SAUDI ARABIA (Riyadh)	(966) 1	4825544	4825694
SENEGAL *	(call Morocco)		
SINGAPORE *	(call New Delhi, India)		
SPAIN	(34) 1	3188808	3196619
SRI LANKA *	(call New Delhi, India)		
SUDAN	(249) 11	471622	471036
SWEDEN *	(call United Kingdom)		
SWITZERLAND *	(call France)		
SYRIA	(963) 11	3320044	3320531
THAILAND *	(call New Delhi, India)		
TUNISIA	(216) 1	787395	781620
TURKEY	(90) 312	4411366	4411544
UNITED KINGDOM (London)	(44) 0171	4932200	4932661
UKRAINE *	(call turkey)		
UNITED STATES (Washington)	(1) 202	274-1603	237-0061
VENEZUELA	(call Washington, USA)		
YEMEN	(967)1	269657	269656
YUGOSLAVIA	(call Austria)		
Consulates			
DUBAI (UAE)	(971) 4	456888	456555
UNITED STATES (Texas)	(1) 713	968-9840	968-9841
SAUDI ARABIA (Jeddah)	(966) 2	6652538	6651297
PAKISTAN (Karachi)	(92) 21	5862171	5872377
INDIA (Mumbai)	(91) 22	2026701	2023692
Permanent Missions to the United Nations			
NEW YORK (also functions as a Consulate)	(1) 212	486-9335	758-4952
GENEVA	(41) 22	7988500	7910485

www.mofa.gov.qa

Qatar on the World-Wide Web



An increasing number of government ministries and departments, private enterprises, educational establishments and individuals in Qatar are setting up Home Pages on the Internet. Some are in Arabic, some in English and others are bilingual. Listed below are just a few of the sites you may find useful. In addition to these, you will find a wealth of other information by going to www.qatar.net.qa You may have intermittent problems aqccessing some of these pages, which are all subject to change.
A = Arabic sites; E = English; A+E = Bilingual

GOVERNMENT & MINISTRIES

Ministry of Foreign Affairs (A+E)	www.mofa.gov.qa
Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Agriculture	www.mmaa..gov.qa
Ministry of Awqaf & Islamic Affairs (A+E)	www.islam.gov.qa
Centre for Geographic Information Systems (E)	www.gisqatar.org.qa
Qatar Central Bank	www.qatar.net.qa/qcb
Hamad Medical Corporation (E)	www.hmcqa.org

OIL, GAS, PETROCHEMICALS AND INDUSTRIAL

Qatar General Petroleum Corporation (E)	www.qgpc.com.qa
Qatar Petrochemical Company (E)	www.qapco.com
Qatar Fertiliser Company	www.qafco.com
Qatargas (site under construction)	www.qatargas.com
RasGas	www.rasgas.com.qa
Qatar Industrial Manufacturing Co (Qimco) (A+E) *(has info. on all Qimco-related companies)*	www.qimco.com

SERVICE INDUSTRIES

Qatar Telecom (Q-TEL)	www.qatar.net.qa
Qatar Cable Vision	www.qcv.com
Qatar Airways (A+E)	www.qatarairways.com
Qatar General Insurance & Reinsurance	www.qgirc.com
Qatar National Bank	www.qatarbank.com
Qatar Islamic Bank	www.qib2000.com
Qatar National Navigation & Transport	www.qatar.net.qa/qnntc
The Commercial Bank of Qatar	www.cbq.com

MEDIA

Al Jazeera Satellite Channel (A+E)	www.aljazeera.net
Al Rayah newspaper (A - Windows or Macintosh)	www.raya.com
Al Sharq newspaper	www.al-sharq.com
Al Watan newspaper	www.al-watan.com
Gulf Times newspaper	www.gulf-times.com

LEISURE

Race & Equestrian Club	www.ihorizons.com/rec

BUSINESS CLUBS & CHARITABLE SOCIETIES

US-Qatar Business Council	www.qatarbusinesscouncil.org
Qatar Charitable Society	www.qcharity.org
Qatar Chamber of Commerce & Industry	www.qcci@qatar.net.qa

EDUCATIONAL ESTABLISHMENTS

Qatar University (A+E)	www.qu.edu.qa
Ibn Taymia Secondary School	www.ibn-taymia.edu
Doha College	www.dohacollege.qa

ISLAM

Dr Yousef Qaradawi's web site	www.qaradawi.net
Islam On Line	www.islam-online.net

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Standard Cards also available QR 25, QR 50, and QR 100

For more details, call Qatar Telecard on 355 800

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VISA · Diners Club International · Cirrus · MasterCard · American Express

Interested retailers please contact Tel. 369800

al ansari international

DOs & DON'Ts

DO remember that Qatar is a Muslim country, and you need to dress appropriately. Both men and women should keep shorts and sleeveless tops for the beach.

DO make sure you drink plenty of water. Your body needs more than fruit juices, carbonated drinks, tea and coffee. On average you should drink one pint of fluid for every 10°F. Ideally, if the temperature is 80°F (27°c), you should drink 8 pints of water per day! If your urine becomes yellowish, it's a sure sign you are dehydrating!

DO be prepared to bargain with shopkeepers - particularly in the souq. Asking for a discount is the norm!

DO remember to cover your head when you're outside during the day. A slight breeze can fool you into thinking it's cool, but the sun can be very fierce during the summer months.

DON'T go in the sea barefoot. Stonefish are rare, but can be found along the shoreline. They look like stones, and if you inadvertently tread on them, they inject poison into your foot!

DO ask permission from people before you take their photographs. Many of the older people and most of the women object to being photographed; equally, avoid sensitive sites or pictures which include members of the police or armed forces.

DON'T forget to use high-factor sunblock on all exposed skin including the tops of your feet if you're wearing sandals. Make sure children are well protected too.

DON'T sit in a way that shows the soles of your feet or shoes to your Qatari hosts; it's considered insulting. Equally, don't sit with your back towards other guests. (You will notice chairs are usually arranged around the walls.)

DON'T be afraid to go out at night. Qatar is one of the safest places you'll find in the world. Evenings are an ideal time to explore the town, and Doha Bay looks superb at night. Clear skies reveal a host of stars too!

DON'T hand over or accept items with your left hand, and if you're eating with your fingers, only use your right hand, following Muslim convention (the left hand is reserved for bodily functions).

SPEAK ARABIC
USEFUL WORDS AND PHRASES

COURTESIES

Peace be with you (greeting)	AsSalam alaikom
And with you be peace (reply)	Wa alaikom asSalam
Hello	Marhaba
Good morning	Sabah al kheir
Good morning (reply)	Sabah al noor
Good evening	Masa al kheir
Good evening (reply)	Masa al noor
How are you?	Keif haalak?
Well	Zein
By God's grace	Al-hamdu lillah
Thanks	Shukran
Not at all	Afwan
Please	Min fadlak
Please (do)	Tafaddal
Goodbye	Ma-as-salamah
Yes	Na'am
No	La
Sorry	Muta' assef

DIRECTIONS

Tell me	Qulli
This	Hadha
That	Thalika
How much?	Kam?
What's the matter?	Aish fi?
On your right	Ala yameenak
On your left	Ala shimalak
Straight on	Ala tool
When?	Emta?
Go!	Imshi!
Come!	Ta'ala!
Stop!	Qif!
There isn't any	Ma fi
Impossible	Mish mumkin
Look!	Shuft!
Finished	Khallas

TIME

What time is it?	As-sa'a kam?
It is late	Al-waqt mut'akhar
It is early	Badri
It is one o'clock, two, three	As-sa'a wahda, thntein, thalatha

TRAVEL

Porter, take my luggage	Ya hammal, khuth'afshee
I want a taxi	Areed taxi
How much is the taxi?	Kam al-ijar?
Where is the airline office?	Wain makrab at-tairan?
Take us to the airport	Khuthna ila-matar

HOTELS

Where is the Sheraton hotel?	Wain funduq Sheraton
Can I have a room for the night?	Areed ghurfa li-l-laila?

SHOPPING

I want to buy....	Areed ashtiri
Do you have ....?	Andak?
Where is the market?	Wain al-souq?
How much is it?	Kam qimtah?

NUMBERS

One	Wahid
Two	Ithnain
Three	Thalatha
Four	Arba'a
Five	Khamsa
Six	Sitta
Seven	Sab'a
Eight	Thamanya
Nine	Tiss'a
Ten	Ashara
Eleven	Ihda ashar
Twelve	Ithna ashar
Twenty	Ashreen
Hundred	Mi'a
Thousand	Alf

DAYS OF THE WEEK

Sunday	Yom al-ahad
Monday	Yom al-ithnain
Tuesday	Yom al-thalatha
Wednesday	Yom al-arba'a
Thursday	Yom al-khamees
Friday	Yom al-jum'a
Saturday	Yom al-sabt

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Tel. (974) 439596 or Fax (974) 365436

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